

Ponting disputes Heseltine account to House

By Richard Norton-Taylor
Mr. Charles Ponting has challenged the account of the Conservative Minister of Defence, Mr. Geoffrey Hoeseltine, in the House of Commons.

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THE GUARDIAN

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Miners reject TUC peace plan

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor
THE 50-week-old coal strike is to go on. Miners' leaders last night unanimously rejected an initiative worked out by the TUC and the National Coal Board.

Mr. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, put forward the document as the best the TUC could achieve in the present circumstances.

but the unanimous view of the 26-man executive was that it was even tougher than they had expected.

Mr. Scargill did not go into details but said that the NCB's proposals were infinitely worse than those which had been submitted last week.

The union thought there was still a basis for negotiation and it was willing to accept that part of the NCB's agreement with the colliery supervisors' union NACS.

Mr. Sid Vincent, the Lancashire leader, said: "We are in a worse position than we were on Sunday. We have got nowhere at all. We are being cornered. They are trying to make fools of us."

A report will be made to today's special delegate conference of the NUM, which will undoubtedly support the view of the leadership.

The strike is therefore destined to go far some time yet and the TUC peace overtures have been finally exhausted.

THE Guardian Books page will appear in tomorrow's paper.

TV ban on surveillance claims made by ex-officers

CND, miners 'under MI5 monitoring'

By David Hearst
Two former MI5 intelligence officers alleged last night that leading members of CND and the NUM had had their telephones tapped and that political information about the conduct of strikes had been passed to government in direct contravention of MI5's charter.

The former officers alleged that MI5 had infiltrated the headquarters of CND and tapped the telephones of Mr. Arthur Scargill and Mr. Mick MacGahy, president and vice-president of the NUM.

Another former agent of the MI5, whose anonymity the programme was eager to keep, claimed that the telephones of Mr. Scargill and Mr. MacGahy were regularly tapped during disputes in the seventies and Ms. Massiter claimed that it was highly likely that Mr. Scargill's home telephone was being tapped in the current miners' dispute.

The IBA said in its statement last night: "The IBA recognises that a number of serious allegations are made in the programme about the surveillance methods operated by the security services and that surveillance is an area of public and parliamentary concern."

NEWS IN BRIEF
Condoms bill vote
A BILL allowing contraceptives to be more freely sold in the Irish Republic was given a second reading in the Dail last night by 83 votes to 80.

Flat deaths
A MOTHER and her daughter found dead in a London council flat died of carbon monoxide poisoning, police said.

Guards training
HUNDREDS of members of the US National Guard have been training alongside British troops in Britain.

NHS changes
THE National Health Service is facing another management reorganisation three years after the last one.

Libyans gaoled
THREE Libyan students have been gaoled for planting bombs in Manchester.

Olivetti rescues Acorn
by Peter Large, Technology Correspondent
The Italian group Olivetti yesterday rescued Acorn, the home computer firm which has supplied about 150,000 of the computers in British schools.

Asians take control in local poll

Ms. Massiter claimed that information gained about the CND's peace campaign was passed to a unit set up by Mr. Heseltine to combat the CND's unilateralist line.

Mr. Larry Gostin, general secretary of the NCLC, who was himself a target of MI5 surveillance, according to the programme, said: "If there has been a breach of any criminal law that is a matter for law enforcement agencies and for an injunction if appropriate. The IBA has no proper remit to act as a law enforcement agency itself."

Mr. Gostin said the IBA was aiding and abetting a cover-up, instead of protecting the public's right to know.

Colin Brown adds: After the screening of the programme to Labour MPs in the Commons last night Mr. David Winnick, chairman of the Tribune Group, said that the Commons home affairs select committee was fully justified in calling for an inquiry into the Special Branch.

He said: "While accepting the need for intelligence and the security services, the question which arises from this film is whether MI5 has become a law unto itself."

He demanded that the Attorney-General should give an assurance that no one involved in the film should be prosecuted under section two of the Official Secrets Act.

Detain powers for Aids
By Andrew Veltch, Medical Correspondent
Doctors are to be given power to order Aids sufferers into hospital and prevent them leaving, the Health Minister, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, announced yesterday.

IRA cash seized
MORE THAN IR£ 14 million of IRA money in a Dublin bank was handed over to the High Court yesterday, back page; Shadow balance sheet, page 17; Leader comment, page 12.

The weather
DRY and sunny. Details, back page.

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Asians take control in local poll



Mrs. Thatcher addressing the joint session of Congress yesterday under the watchful eyes of US Vice-President George Bush (left) and Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas P. O'Neill

Tories' lead cut to 3 points



GUARDIAN MARPLAN INDEX

By Martin Linton
The Conservative Party's lead over Labour has fallen from 8 per cent in January to 3 per cent in the February's Guardian-Marplan Index.

The poll reflects a general drop in the Government's popularity before the verdict in the Cliche Ponting case, which cannot have played much part as it came on the last day of the interviewing period.

The figures show Conservative support down to 35 per cent and Labour's up to 35 per cent, putting the Opposition back within striking distance of the Government for the first time since the party conferences in October.

The same picture can be seen in answers to the question "Who would be the best Prime Minister?" where Mrs. Thatcher has slipped back three points to 31 per cent and Neil Kinnock has climbed one to 20 per cent.

The Alliance has also benefited from the fall in Mrs. Thatcher's personal popularity, with David Owen improving his rating from 13 to 15 per cent and David Steel from 13 to 14 per cent.

Support has risen only one point to 26 per cent, however, bringing them back to the level they reached at the 1983 election but still nine points behind the Labour Party, and 12 behind the Conservatives.

Turn to back page, col. 4

US warms to Thatcher's defence of strong Alliance

From Alex Brummer and Michael White in Washington
In a rare appearance before a joint session of the US Congress Mrs. Thatcher yesterday launched a powerful defence of the important military and economic role played by Europe and Britain in particular in the Western Alliance.

The address, which was brimming with Churchillian rhetoric, flayed the Russians, stood up for the Third World, praised the vigour of Ronald Reagan's America and portrayed Britain as a violent country fulfilling with enthusiasm its national security role in the world.

Britain meets her responsibilities for the defence of freedom throughout the world, Mrs. Thatcher said to ringing applause: "She will go on doing so. However, the Prime Minister's bold justification of Britain's role in Northern Ireland appeared less warmly received."

Mrs. Thatcher naturally made much of the fact that she is the first British Prime Minister so honoured since Sir Winston Churchill made his third

and last appearance in 1952—though Dr. Garret Fitzgerald of the Irish Republic did so last year. Probably no tenant of Downing Street since Churchill could have drawn such a crowd of congressmen, diplomats and reporters, almost as many yesterday as for the President's own State of the Union message last month.

Green sting in Maggie's tale, page 17; Star Wars tests threaten shuttle, page 6; Leader comment, page 12

by, she later presented Congress with a small statue of Sir Winston.

Nor did the substance of Mrs. Thatcher's speech endanger her status here as a favourite daughter. Her denunciation of IRA terrorism was carefully wrapped in cross-references to American terrorist losses and came only after she had fulsomely flattered her audience with praise and thanks for "the shield of the United States"—moral, military and economic.

Though the repeated bursts of applause were generous they came more often and

more noisily from Republicans, particularly when the Prime Minister endorsed Star Wars research and said "It is our strength and not their goodwill which has brought the Soviet Union to the negotiating table."

Though Mrs. Thatcher's legendary flying handbag was out of sight where the US was concerned she implicitly urged cutbacks in the US deficit and said, to only modest applause: "We cannot preach economic adjustment to them (the Third World) and refuse to practice it at home."

Speaking from the simple wooden podium in the House of Representatives where President Reagan delivered his address two weeks ago, Mrs. Thatcher applauded the President's decision to "maintain deterrence" through the Star Wars defence and made her first direct appeal for a share of the action in research on the Strategic Defence Initiative.

"I hope our own scientists Mrs. Thatcher told an audience of 1,000 in this research, defence which included the US Defence Secretary, Mr. Caspar Weinberger. She reiterated Britain's view that nothing

Turn to back page, col. 4

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Kent, Scargill and Gostin 'MI5 targets'

ALLEGATIONS that leaders of the CND and the National Council for Civil Liberties had been subjected to surveillance were made by Cathy Massiter, a former MI5 intelligence officer, in a Channel 4 documentary banned from the screen last night.

Another former officer claimed that senior trade unionists had their phones tapped regularly.

Ms Massiter gave the names of leaders who, she said, were scrutinised by MI5 in the 20/20 Vision programme, MI5's Official Secrets, which the IBA ordered should not be shown.

The list included Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, Barbara Egglestone, national organiser of Christian CND, Larry Gostin, general secretary of the NCCL, as well as former general secretary Patricia Hewitt, who is now an adviser to Mr Neil Kinnock and the NCCL's former legal officer Harriet Harman, now a Labour MP.

In 1981, Ms Massiter, who had been recruited from a university library 11 years earlier, said she was put in charge of the surveillance of CND, even though the organisation was taken off the MI5's list of subversive organisations.

Ms Massiter said in the

Allegations by ex-officers of phone taps and surveillance. David Hearst reports



Said to be under the MI5 gaze (from left): Barbara Egglestone, Larry Gostin, Patricia Hewitt, Bruce Kent, Arthur Scargill and Harriet Harman

Channel 4 programme: "It was perceived as more than necessary that we had to be able to answer very precisely whatever questions we were asked about CND and its subversive penetration, which meant that our study had to be perhaps rather closer than it certainly would have been otherwise."

To do this MI5 got one of its agents, Mr Harry Newton, a respected lecturer in trade union law and life-long activist in left-wing political groups, to join CND in 1982. Newton, who died last year,

had been the treasurer of the Institute for Workers' Control, a left-wing think tank supported by prominent trade union officials like Jack Jones and Alex Kitson and had been recruited by MI5 in the 1960s.

Newton filed regular reports about the workings and activities of CND headquarters. Ms Massiter said: "He (Newton) had a strong opinion that Kent might be a crypto-communist. I personally saw no justification for this whatsoever, but that certainly was the view that he expressed."

She said that Newton's reports were entered on MI5 files and the view that CND was controlled by extreme left-wing activists was passed on to Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, even though she found no evidence to support this view.

Confronted by the revelation that Mr Newton was an MI5 agent, and that he told MI5 that Kent was a "crypto-communist", Mr Kent said: "Well they have overpaid him in that case. I am not a crypto-communist. I don't know what crypto means, I'm not a

communist." Cathy Massiter also alleged that material gathered by MI5 was passed on to a counter-propaganda unit set up by Mr Heseltine in March 1983 to combat the CND's unilateralist line. The unit is known as DS19.

Instructed by her superior Ms Massiter passed on non-classified information on any extreme left-wing affiliations of CND leaders. The passing of information from MI5, a security organisation, to DS19, a political body, may be seen as a direct breach of MI5's own code of conduct,

known as the Maxwell Frye directive. It states that it is essential that "the Security Service should be kept absolutely free from any political bias or influence."

Shortly after DS 19 received MI5's report, Cathy Massiter was told that the MI5 would "consider favourably" an application to tap the phone of a communist target in CND.

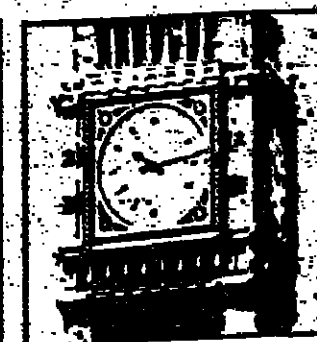
The target chosen was John Cox, vice-president of CND and a member of the Communist Party. From him MI5 obtained information

about Bruce Kent, Joan Rudbeck on "a wide range of topics that were concerning CND at the time." Cathy Massiter questioned whether John Cox posed a subversive threat to the state.

The agent said: "Mick McGahay, a prominent communist and misanthrope, leader and member of the Scottish TUC was subjected to extensive surveillance, including the tapping of his home telephone. This gave rise to an office joke about the girls who had to listen to Mrs McGahay's interminable telephone conversations with friends and relations, but we were able to get information from her chatting about his movements which he himself was careful to conceal."

The MI5 bugged Arthur Scargill's phone during the seventies. The agent said: "Scargill himself would occasionally shout abuse into the phone at the people who were tapping him." Asked whether Scargill's phone was being tapped now, during the miners' strike, Cathy Massiter said: "I would think it very likely, highly likely in view of his political history and his known political views."

The programme also alleged that MI5 tapped prominent members of the Fire Brigades Union during the firemen's strike.



David McKie

Waiting, chafing, for the last bus

ON Tuesday night the Commons gave a second reading to the London Regional Transport (Amendment) Bill, a measure designed to make the GLC pay £50 million which it would much rather hang on to over to the London Regional Transport Board.

The bill results from a High Court ruling which said, though presumably in more extensive, and certainly in much more expensive, terms that the GLC were under the money it did not so choose. The Transport Secretary, Mr Ridley, having discovered that his powers under the original act were less copious than he had been told to be, is now belatedly amending the bill down the fast lane at speeds in excess of 70 miles an hour to ensure that his legal reach shall from now on match his grasp.

Yesterday's debate was what we in the trade like to call "wide-ranging." Was the original station at Bethnal Green less salubrious than the public had a right to expect? When did the Prime Minister, whose aversion for the railway is well known, "sack" the bus? Was the 10 to 11.30 bus from Number 10 to the House of Commons — a journey well within the limits of the new 25p minimum fare — would it be a 25p or a 77p? With such questions, the House of Commons is not likely to detain itself until 10 o'clock.

Yesterday, as was only right, it had expected some respite from such taxing philosophical gymnastics. A restful session on rate-capping had been arranged, but then came the news that the

Politics, page 18

Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, had been having trouble with his abacus again. There was to be a recount at Haringey. Rate-capping Orders due to come before the House were to be suspended. A fate that many MPs would think entirely suitable for Mr Jenkin himself.

Instead, the Commons was offered a further day's transaction with Mr Ridley's bill. With that prospect, it adopted the usual Commons' convention of its collective sanity, it rebelled.

For a full three hours a succession of Members declared that to rush the remaining stages of the bill through the House in that way was an affront to Parliament, a threat to democracy, an assault on decent human values and in general the sort of behaviour that we expect nowadays only from Oxford University.

Mr Enoch Powell (Official Unionist, South Down) indicated, though in graver and more considered terms, that if the House let the Government get away with this wheeze, which effectively precluded the tabling of amendments for the report stage, the Government would very soon try again. Mr Tam Dalyell (Labour, Linlithgow) contrasted the sums at stake in the Haringey case with the far more important being committed to the building of an airport somewhere or other outside his constituency.

Mr Harry Cohen (Labour, Hackney North) complained that he was being rushed into a final judgment on the bill without even having the time to measure the effect of Mr Ridley's speech on Tuesday night on the lads at Sedgemoor (Labour, Hackney South) noted that the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, had for some time been hatching the debate from the back benches. Why was he on the back bench and not the front?

Mr Dennis Skinner (Labour, Bolsover) said the Prime Minister was not on the front bench, and not on the back bench either — was he on holiday? He further observed that the Speaker had been present throughout — a clear sign, he suggested, of the gravity of this debate. Since in normal circumstances Mr Weatherill could by now have been expected to have gone for his tea.

The Speaker, who was observed to be looking very much like he would very much like to have gone for his tea. But it was not until after seven that he gave his chance to do so.

Cottesloe may be saved by GLC

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent

THE GREATER London Council's arts committee plans to rescue the National Theatre's Cottesloe auditorium from closure with a £375,000 grant.

However, it will only be able to do so if the council's arts budget remains intact despite rate-capping. Only a few weeks ago the GLC's arts committee chairman, Mr Peter Pitt, predicted that rate-capping might prevent the council giving out any arts grants in 1985-86.

But the GLC now seems far more hopeful of having sufficient money to spare for the arts. It has brought a series of court actions in an attempt to force the Government to divulge its methods of fixing rate limits and if it succeeds, would challenge the methods as unreasonable. Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre, announced earlier this month that the Cottesloe would have to close in April because of the 1.9 per cent increase in its Arts Council grant. Sir Peter had said that he needed at least £1.1 million more.

The GLC arts committee said yesterday that, if approved, the GLC grant would enable the Cottesloe to reopen in the summer — as soon as the National would be able to rebuild its programme.

Sir Peter has said that the Cottesloe costs £750,000 a year to run, with maximum box office earnings of £250,000.

Colin Brown adds: The shadow arts minister, Mr Norman Buchanan, last night called on the Arts Council to seek an urgent meeting with the Arts Minister to demand the Government's response to the GLC's attempt to save the Cottesloe.

Gas checks made on London flats where mother and children died in the cold

By Susan Tubbett

A mother and her 11-year-old daughter who died of hypothermia in their council maisonette on Friday, suffered carbon monoxide poisoning, Southwark coroner's court, London, was told yesterday.

The dead woman's 13-year-old son died in hospital of a brain haemorrhage two days later.

Southwark council engineers and South-eastern Gas Board officials were last night investigating all the flats on the Duddingston Grove estate.

Police and gas board officials inquiring into the deaths of Ms Helen Hurst, aged 31, and her two children, Natasha, aged 11, and Michael, aged 13, yesterday identified a defective gas boiler as the source of the carbon monoxide fumes.

Detective Chief Inspector Alec Ross, leading the inquiry, said the fault in the boiler was not caused by damage.

Professor Hugh Johnson, a Home Office pathologist, told the coroner's court that traces of carbon monoxide were found in the bodies of Helen Hurst and her daughter. There were no traces of carbon monoxide in Michael's blood, but his body might have dispersed it before he died. More tests are to be carried out on the three.

Professor Johnson told the deputy coroner, Dr David Foster: "The fact that three people should be overcome in one place is very suggestive of inhalation of carbon monoxide."

He gathered from the police that there were several possible sources of gas — the heating system, a gas fire, or paraffin heaters. But there was still a great deal of investigation to be done before any conclusion could be reached. The inquest was adjourned until March 21.

The small court at Southwark was filled with members of the Hurst family, their friends, and representatives of the local residents' association, of which Ms Hurst was the secretary.

The association handed out leaflets expressing concern about the three deaths and asking for its views to be investigated.

Southwark council said yesterday that it was aware of the deaths of the three children from its technical services division was checking every gas central heating installation on the Duddingston Grove estate.

The leader of the council, Mr Tony Ritchie, said: "Although police investigations have not been completed and it is too early to say what caused the poisoning, I am not prepared to take any chances with people's lives."

Neighbours protested to the council's office before a hearing that damaged gas vents on the top floor of the block of flats had caused poisonous fumes to leak into Ms Hurst's maisonette. They did not believe that the three could have died from the cold alone.



The children who died: Michael (left) and Natasha

Miners lift picket to fight fires at doomed pit

By Jean Stead and Paul Heyland

The miners lifted their picket at the doomed Frances colliery in File yesterday to allow 10 pit deputies to make safety inspections. Frances, formerly a profit-making pit, faces permanent closure after underground fires shut down its only face earlier this month.

A coal board spokesman said the deputies, members of the National Union of Mineworkers, were needed to make regular inspections to ensure

fire did not break out again, even though the pit was closed and the single face was now sealed with concrete.

But at neighbouring Seaholm colliery, pickets are still discouraging Naod's supervisors from going into the pit where underground fire has seriously damaged the most important face. Only seven of the 21 deputies who tried to go in yesterday, got past the picket line, according to the Scottish NCB.

In South Wales, Dr Kim Howells has been restored as the area spokesman of the NUM after a change of heart by the executive which last week had ordered that other senior officials should handle important press statements.

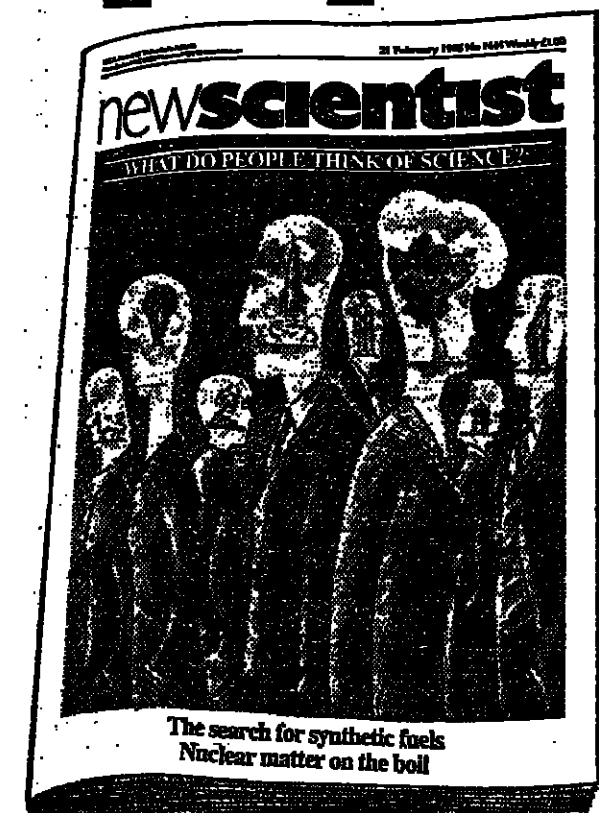
Dr Howells, the area research officer for the NUM, was effectively silenced after he made a statement about a possible return to work without a settlement.

The miners' president, Mr

Arthur Scargill, was reported to have been furious with Dr Howells who on previous occasions has openly criticised the national leadership.

Working miners in Staffordshire yesterday announced that they are taking the Midlands NUM to court in a dispute over accounts. They want to inspect union books to see if members' subscriptions have been used illegally to support the miners' strike in the Midlands.

Science: What do people think?



A survey in this week's New Scientist shows that if the government wants to make itself popular with its electorate, it should spend more money on research and make Britain a world leader in science.

PLUS: The search for synthetic fuels. And nuclear matter on the boil.

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Greenham woman 'faces Secrets Act charge'

By Paul Brown

A research associate at the University of Wales has been told that she may be charged with an offence under the Official Secrets Act after entering Greenham Common air base on an American bus.

Dr Carol Westall, aged 30, was released on police bail on Tuesday after being questioned by Ministry of Defence detectives. She entered the base while it was on a black alert — an exercise in which nuclear and chemical attacks are regarded as imminent.

She says she climbed on to the bus through an open emergency door and passed through the main gate without being detected. She said she had been taking photographs outside the base of Americans in white radiation suits and gas masks. She did not use the camera inside the base and

removed the film which, she claims, was subsequently confiscated.

An American serviceman eventually saw Dr Westall in the bus. She says she was detained and, after 30 minutes, handed over to the Ministry of Defence police.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that Dr Westall had not been charged, but confirmed that an alleged offence under the Official Secrets Act was being investigated.

In London yesterday four people were arrested outside the Ministry of Defence after holding an Ash Wednesday service. Three were later released after a caution and a fourth was charged with obstruction. Christian CND handed a 12,000 signature petition in at Downing Street, calling for the abandonment of Trident nuclear missiles.

Advice on police cautions

By Malcolm Dean

The Home Office yesterday released new guidelines on police cautions designed to increase their use, particularly with juvenile offenders.

The guidelines, which have been sent to all chief constables, are also intended to create a common approach by all 43 police forces. At present there is a widespread disparity in the cautioning procedure, with some forces using cautions twice as frequently as others.

Ministers at the Home Office are concerned that there

should be no further increase in the proportion of juvenile offenders who receive custodial sentences from the courts.

One way of diverting some juveniles from the criminal justice system is to increase the use of cautioning. The guidelines note that "there is no rule in law that suspected offenders must be prosecuted."

The guidelines note that there are more informal ways of dealing with some juveniles that a formal caution, which is recorded by the police and included in a juvenile's record at any subsequent court hearing.

Far left groups 'get public cash'

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

LABOUR and Conservative controlled councils are funding voluntary groups which engage in "extreme left-wing activities" according to a pamphlet published yesterday by the right-wing Tory think-tank, the Centre for Policy Studies.

It suggests new laws to forbid the payment of grants to political bodies and ensure that voluntary groups raise at least a quarter of their funds from non-public sources.

The pamphlet identifies a phenomenon which it describes as Quangos (quasi-autonomous local government organisations) which are independent of councils but rely on them for support. It finds these Quangos more pernicious than the more popularly-known Quangos, because they are less accountable for their use of public funds.

Voluntary bodies today enjoy an aggregate annual income of almost £10 billion, a sum which is increasing fast. But the term voluntary is a misnomer. Very few of the bodies rely solely upon voluntary contributions, even fewer upon voluntary workers, says the report, the authors of which include Mr Teresa Gorman, a Westminster city councillor, and Mr Cyril Taylor, the deputy leader of the GLC Tory group.

The report claims that the Government is guilty of complicity. "All release large funds to organisations who have been given the status of Quangos by local authorities."

The report is being submitted to the Government's inquiry into local authority ethics under Mr David Wedderburn, QC.

*Quangos Just Grow: political bodies in voluntary clothing, by Teresa Gorman, Barbara Robson, Bernard Sharpe and Cyril Taylor. Centre for Policy Studies. Price £3.90.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Staff agree to Vauxhall 6pc offer

VAUXHALL'S 5,000 white collar workers have voted to accept a 6 per cent pay rise, in contrast to the 8 to 14 per cent increase awarded to the company's 15,000 manual workers last November after a two week strike.

The company's main staff unions said that it was the first time for years that their members have received a smaller increase.

The deal also includes further negotiations on a new salary structure.

Manual workers were awarded a higher increase because they accepted revised working conditions as part of the agreement.

Man counts cost of motoring joys

A MAN who motored into the record books admitting 81 offences with four different cars, was fined a total of £250 and banned from driving for five years by a court at Bridgend yesterday.

Patrick Goldsmith, 26, of Coed Glas, Mid Glamorgan, was stopped 17 times for offences including having no insurance. Describing his client's fascination for cars, Mr Roy Snape, defending, said: "Some people have it for females. But there are many young men who seem to regard a motor car as almost the be-all and end-all of life."

Cottage damaged in arson attack

THREE hundredth arson attack since the campaign against second homes in Wales began five years ago was being investigated by police yesterday.

Forensic scientists were called in to examine a detached 150-year-old stone cottage at Beddgelert in Snowdonia, badly damaged by flames during the night. The owner, a dentist, lives at Uxbridge, Middlesex.

HOME NEWS

MoD staff briefed at American Embassy on how to release details of presence

Hundreds of US National Guard training in UK army exercises

By Gareth Parry

Hundreds of members of the United States National Guard have been training in Britain alongside British troops.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the National Guardsmen are in Britain as part of a regular military exchange programme. But their presence has received publicity because it is recognised by Whitehall and the Pentagon as a sensitive issue.

This is because the National Guard, which is used in peacetime to handle a variety of national emergencies, including civil disturbances, is largely remembered in Britain for its part in quelling the student revolt at Kent State University in Ohio, which resulted in the deaths of four students who were demonstrating against US intervention in Cambodia.

More than 800 guardsmen took part in exercises with British troops at various locations throughout England and Wales last week. The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that another 350 would arrive this year, although the Pentagon said that at least 800 more would come.

Mr John Stanley, minister for the armed forces, said in a written reply to Mrs Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, last Friday, that 840 of the Americans took part in British exercises last year.

It is understood that after Mr Stanley's answer senior MoD staff were given a confidential briefing by military attaché personnel from the American Embassy in London. The object of the meeting was to decide how best to present details of the National Guard's presence in Britain.

The National Guard is similar to that of the regular army in that it acts as a reserve to the regular army in time of war. But in peacetime, the National Guard deals with a variety of national emergencies, such as weather disasters. Unlike the Territorials, however, it is also used in civil disturbances such as industrial disputes or student revolts. In recent years, for example, National Guardsmen stepped in when supplies were stopped by a national lorry drivers' strike. They also intervened during a firemen's strike.

In answer to another question from Mrs Clwyd, Mr Stanley said: "It is envisaged that US National Guardsmen will participate in exercises undertaken by the National Guard in Britain."

"I believe that Parliament has a right to such information, although in my experience the Ministry of Defence refuses to give information on the grounds that it would endanger national security," said Mrs Clwyd, who has also been a Euro-MP. I have in the past found that questions which

were avoided in London were and these included such vital topics as Nato policy."

The first suggestion that the National Guard might have a presence in Britain came early last year, when Mr Ioan Richard, a Swansea Valley councillor, was told by a police friend that there were American troops in the area.

Mr Richard contacted his MP, Mr Gareth Wardell, Labour MP for Gower, who then asked a question in the Commons about the Americans and was told on June 22 that 50 Guardsmen were in Britain. But the written answer went largely unnoticed until fresh concern was generated by the peace movement protests at Molesworth, the proposed cruise missile site in Cambridgeshire. Mr Richard again raised the issue of the National Guard, this time with CND. Mr Clwyd then asked for updated information.

The National Guard consists of an army section of 450,000 and an air force section of 111,000. It is manned by officers and senior NCOs, many of whom are Vietnamese veterans with combat experience. The men train one weekend a month. They are equipped with the same weapons and kit available to regular US forces.

La-Col Daniel Donahue, chief of public affairs at National Guard H Qm Washington, said yesterday: "The National Guard's state mission is to respond to national emergencies, which have in the past included weather disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes, and blizzards."

"They will also deal with emergencies which come from labour disputes, when the governor of a county considers all his normal resources. This does not, however, mean tripping over the running of essential services affected by a labour dispute. In times of war they would, of course, merge with the regular forces."

The National Guard's total strength of 561,000 men compares with the 70,000 of Britain's Territorial Army, which has no comparable civil role.

The MoD said yesterday: "The training exercises conducted for the National Guard in Britain are purely basic training, and quite fundamental weapons training. They've been coming since 1952, and 10 or 12 went over to West Germany on Operation Lionheart last year. It's a reciprocal arrangement with the TA."

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said: "The revelation that hundreds of these troops are secretly in Britain is astounding, and I think we are entitled to a full and detailed explanation as to their role."



National Guardsmen going through their paces in Miami

NHS faces its second upheaval in three years

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

The National Health Service faces yet another management reorganisation, within three years of the creation of over 200 district health authorities in England and Wales.

Proposals put to Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, by the first batch of district health authorities wanting to appoint new "unit managers," show that a number want to reorganise health services in their areas.

They involve the abolition of jobs created only three years ago and the merging of services which have yet to settle down from the last reorganisation.

The plans mean the creation of 2,700 new jobs under the 300 new district and regional general managers now being appointed by Mr Fowler, on the recommendation of a management inquiry headed by Mr Roy Griffiths, the general manager of Sainsbury's.

Some authorities want to sweep away staff structures and appoint people on short-term contracts.

The most vulnerable post is that of chief nursing officer — created in Sir Keith Joseph's reorganisation of 1974 and redesignated by Mr Fowler in 1982.

Some areas are to be merged to help to comply with circulars just issued by Mr Fowler asking for further cuts in administrative costs. The most radical proposals are

emerging from the Trent region — which set the pace last year by appointing all its district general managers in advance of the rest of the country.

District health authority plans in North Derbyshire propose merging community and acute services under a new unit manager and putting all geriatric and psychiatric services under another unit. The remaining services will be coordinated under one unit to serve the High Peak area.

The post of chief nursing officer will be abolished and nursing advice merged in a new department to cover consumer services and research.

Mr John Newton, the new district general manager for North Derbyshire, said yesterday: "The plans would involve streamlining services, abolishing many committees, and creating a new line of authority in the district."

Proposals to streamline services have also been put forward by South Lincolnshire, Leeds (Western), and Portsmouth health authorities. South Lincolnshire plans to merge the management of hospitals for the mentally ill and handicapped, and to review the future of nursing management services.

The plans have been condemned by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which has accused North Derbyshire of putting the nursing profession at risk.

The Royal College of Nurs-

ing has protested to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, about nurses being ignored for new jobs as district managers.

The plans are also expected to heighten opposition from the all-party Commons Social Services Committee, which has urged ministers not to proceed with the creation of unit managers for fear of disrupting the service.

Court invokes Contempt Act

A Torbay court invoked the 1981 Contempt Act yesterday to prevent details being made public of defendants in an alleged multi-million pound international drugs smuggling conspiracy based in Torquay.

One of the 17 defendants, a 28-year-old roofing contractor, Tony Strange, asked for press reporting restrictions to be lifted during committal proceedings against him. Strange, of Teignmouth Road, Torquay, has made a statement but the county prosecutor made an application under the 1981 act that, even though reporting restrictions had been lifted, other defendants might not be identified for fear that it would prejudice their trial.

Strange was committed for trial at Exeter Crown Court, charged with conspiracy to import controlled drugs into Holland.

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		guaranteed sum	with compound interest	additional terminal bonus	guaranteed sum	with compound interest	additional terminal bonus	guaranteed sum	with compound interest	additional terminal bonus
£10	Up to 40	4250	1190	2108	2210	4573	708	4250	12971	2616
	41-45	4145	1161	2056	2155	4460	691	4145	12650	2551
	46-50	3885	1088	1927	2020	4180	648	3885	11857	2391
£20	Up to 40	8500	2380	4216	4420	9147	1418	8500	25942	5232
	41-45	8290	2321	4111	4311	8921	1383	8290	25301	5103
	46-50	7770	2176	3854	4040	8361	1296	7770	23714	4783
£30	Up to 40	12750	3570	6324	6630	13721	2127	12750	38913	7848
	41-45	12435	3482	6167	6486	13382	2074	12435	37951	7654
	46-50	11655	3283	5780	6061	12543	1944	11655	35571	7174
£40	Up to 40	17000	4760	8432	8840	18295	2836	17000	51894	10485
	41-45	16580	4642	8223	8622	17843	2766	16580	50602	10206
	46-50	15540	4351	7707	8081	16724	2592	15540	47428	9586
£50	Up to 40	21250	5950	10540	11050	22869	3545	21250	64855	13061
	41-45	20725	5803	10279	10777	22304	3458	20725	63252	12758
	46-50	19425	5439	9634	10101	20905	3241	19425	59285	11958

Notes: * This table assumes you are assured at our ordinary rates of premium. * These projected values also assume that our current rates of bonus are maintained — since bonuses come from profits, future rates cannot be guaranteed. Full details of rates of bonus and the methods by which they are allocated will accompany your policy document. * Monthly premiums shown will increase by 10% of the initial amount each year for the first 10 years. After the first ten years payments, premiums will remain level for the rest of the premium paying term. Your policy will confirm the exact figures. * The Flexible Escalator Investment Plan is a savings contract for a minimum term of ten years and a maximum term of 25 years. * The contract before ten years is not recommended, as any amount then payable may be less than the total premiums paid. * The amount payable on cashing in within the first 10 years exceeds the total premiums paid there may be some liability to higher rates of income tax on the profit.

Home Office proposes extradition law reform

By Malcolm Dean

New proposals to make it easier for foreign states to extradite criminal suspects from the UK were set out in a Home Office green paper yesterday.

The changes would align British proceedings more closely to international extradition law. At present, extradition from the UK is as in domestic cases where prima facie evidence has to be brought against the alleged criminal. The Government is not committed to the proposals.

About one third of all extradition applications to Britain fail because of the prima facie requirement. The green paper notes that the inherent difficulties of the British procedure could encourage criminals to seek refuge in the UK. "This damages the rule of law both in this country and abroad," it says.

With the exception of Malta, Britain is the only state in the 21-member Council of Europe which has not signed the European convention on extradition.

The consultative document suggests that the British custom causes problems for countries with different legal systems. It could be unfair to make the procedure reflect a full English criminal. The extradition request, often came

earlier in an investigation of a crime and the absence of the fugitive could be a handicap.

The advantages of retaining the present system are set out, including the need to ensure equality of treatment for all persons who come before British courts. The paper adds, however, that the committal procedure is already alien to Scots law.

It suggests ad hoc extradition for states without sufficient traffic to justify a treaty. This is a possible option for dealing with the large number of states where no treaty exists. * The new Child Abduction Act was used possibly for the first time yesterday when a warrant for the arrest of a separated father, who fled to the United States with his four-year-old daughter, last December was issued by Newbury magistrates.

The application was made by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Under the act, the American authorities should begin extradition proceedings leading to the return of the man to face trial at Reading crown court. One legal complication, however, is that although both parents are British the daughter was born in the US and is thus an American citizen.

Extradition. Cmd 9421, Stationery Office, £3.50, net.

Ann Clwyd: will ask for details of exercises

Gareth Wardell: told of "US troops in Wales"

HOME NEWS

'Fanatics fashion' of violence, says judge

Three Libyans gaoled for bombing 'outrage'

By Tom Sharrett

Three Libyan students were given gaol sentences of between five and twelve years at Manchester Crown Court yesterday after being found guilty of planting bombs in Manchester last March. A fourth student was cleared of conspiracy and released.

Sentencing the three, Mr Justice Cantley said: "In these days there is a fashion among fanatics and all sorts of odd people to try to impose their views on others by lethal processes such as bombings. It is a lamentable fact that any three or more — a minority — can inflict this kind of outrage on the general public."

Khalid Mansour, aged 23, of Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, was gaoled for 12 years on condition of being deported on completion of sentence. Mohammed Shalabak, 25, of Dickinson Road, Longsight, Manchester, was gaoled for six years, and Taher Abouzou, 23, who lived at the same address as Mansour, for five years.

Mansour and Abouzou were convicted unanimously, and Shalabak by majority verdicts of conspiring between November 1 1983 and March 12 1984 to cause an explosion or explosions, and of causing an explosion in Manchester on March 11. All three had denied the charges.

Abd al-Salam Shwayb, aged 19, of Egmont Street, Chorlton, Manchester, who denied a charge of conspiracy alone, was acquitted.

During the 13-day trial the court heard of a group of Libyan students who supported Colonel Gaddafi planning a campaign against other Libyans in Manchester who opposed the regime. A first wave of violence had been involved, Khalid Tantouch, was said to have left Britain shortly before the bombs were planted, having been refused permission to remain.

Two bombs exploded early on March 11 at a house in Alness Road, Whalley Range, where Libyans lived in flats. The first destroyed a car and second damaged a flat and injured the occupants, a young couple and their baby.

Mansour, alleged to have been the ringleader, was said to have planted one of the bombs on the window sill of the flat. The judge told him: "You are a person of ability, and it might have been a deal worse for all the victims if you had had Tantouch with you instead of having to recruit persons who were not particularly keen on encouraging you in what you wanted to do."

Abouzou, who was alleged to have planted the bomb under the car, was described by his counsel Mr William Howard, QC, as having been in fear throughout the trial.

The judge told Abouzou: "I think you were under some pressure, and I think you have been under some pressure ever since."

Shalabak, said to have driven Mansour and Abouzou to Alness Road, was told by the judge: "You didn't plant the bombs, and I have heard things about you which lead me to suppose you are not irredeemably a person who does this kind of thing."

The judge made no order about the possible deportation of Abouzou and Shalabak, saying he would let the Home Office decide.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robbery retrial ordered

THE judge in the Old Bailey trial of three men accused of taking part in the £6 million Security Express robbery, His Honour Judge Lowry, QC, yesterday ordered a retrial on the third day of the hearing after a legal problem arose, writes Paul Keel.

The three, John Leonard Knight, aged 47, a garage owner, of Wheatthampstead, Hertfordshire, Terence George Perkins, aged 35, a property developer, of Enfield, Middlesex, and William John Rickson, aged 40, a market trader, of the City of London, have all denied stealing the cash from the company's security depot near Liverpool Street Station, London, Easter Monday, 1983. The retrial will begin today.

Firebomb attack on councillor

POLICE in Liverpool were yesterday hunting a fire-bomber who attacked the home of a Liverpool councillor, Mr Stephen Radford, in Fulbrook, 47, a Liverpool councillor. A petrol-filled milk bottle was hurled through the lounge window of Liberal councillor Mr Liverpool on Tuesday night. Mr Radford, who managed to extinguish the flames, was hurt in the incident, described by Det-Sup Keith Rotherham as "very serious."

Hospital's 100th heart transplant

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl yesterday became the hundredth patient to receive a heart transplant at Papworth hospital, Cambridge, in a three and a half hour operation.

Mr John Edwards, spokesman for the heart transplant team, said: "The girl, who is on her own without the aid of a ventilator. Her new heart works well and she has told her doctors she feels brilliant."

MoD confirms toxic leak claim

THE Ministry of Defence yesterday confirmed a CND claim that there has been an incident involving beryllium powder, a toxic material, at the Lanchester Ordnance factory in Cardiff last month. The MoD had earlier denied all knowledge of the incident, writes Paul Heyland.

Yesterday, a spokesman at the ministry said on January 26 routine monitoring had recorded higher levels of beryllium than usual in a workshop. Tests made on staff revealed no harmful effects.

Arrests at Welsh language protest

THE work of 200 civil servants, including Customs and Excise staff, was disrupted for several hours yesterday afternoon when offices at Colwyn Bay were occupied by members of the Welsh Language Society campaigning for the establishment of a Welsh language education development body.

Some 40 protesters scattered files on floors and sprayed slogans on walls. Police forcibly ejected the demonstrators, and 23 were later charged with criminal damage.

Fumes victims in hospital

Seven people, including four children, were treated in hospital yesterday after apparently being overcome by fumes during the night at their Southampton home.

Gas board officials began an investigation of the heating system at the house in Chitworth.

Day in politics

page 18

Unemployment takes its toll on mortgages

By Rosemary Collins

Mortgage arrears are rising because of unemployment and financial mismanagement among borrowers, and to lesser extent because of marriage breakdowns and the miners' strike, the Building Societies' Association said yesterday.

In the first half of 1984 the societies took possession of 5,320 properties. At that time there were 33,000 loans, 0.6 per cent of the total, more than six months in arrears. Previous high levels of mortgage arrears had occurred in 1970 and 1975 and the association points out that a cyclical pattern has emerged since the figures were first collected in their present form in 1969. Mortgage arrears were recorded in 1973 and 1979.

The miners' strike has had only a small impact on the national statistics because of the relatively small number of borrowers involved. Individually, however, they have suffered an extremely severe reduction in income.

Marriage breakdown, which has occurred in an estimated 30 per cent of possession cases, is not happening significantly more often and is therefore not a major factor in the rising numbers of arrears.

The association attributes this to rising unemployment and domestic cash mismanagement. "The incidence of wilful refusal to pay is very small," Mr Mark Boleat, the societies' deputy secretary-general, said.

"The more serious problem arises from those who simply cannot manage their money."

The report admits that a relaxation of lending criteria by members as available funds and competition for mortgage applicants have increased may be another reason for the upward trend in arrears. More societies are now offering 100 per cent mortgages, and mortgages to people with comparatively low incomes.

Changes in mortgage rates have no noticeable effect on arrears or possessions. The cost to the societies of arrears never repaid, even after possession, was less than £2 million in 1983, the latest available figure, out of a total mortgage portfolio of £67,000 million. Handling arrears cases however cost £13 million in that year, roughly equivalent to employing 1,500 building society staff.

He also wanted to see the "adversary attitude to the building society," indicated by branches' offers to "negotiate" on behalf of borrowers, replaced by the development of money advice agencies. People with repayment problems should turn to their building society first. "A building society has no wish to take possession proceedings, as this is contrary to its objective of helping people into home ownership," says the report.

Judge puts ban on Kissagram

A KISSAGRAM girl was used to deliver an allegedly libellous poem to a London finance company, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

Two appeal judges granted NH Finance (Pleasants) Ltd, a temporary injunction banning further publication of the alleged libel.

The order was against Mr Eamonn O'Biggins, of Belgrave, London, and Mr Shane Roe, who claim that the girl was paid £75,000 for introducing them to a multi-million pound property deal with the Church Commissioners.

Lord Justice Robert Goff said: "The Kissagram girls arrived at the company's premises. They took their coats off, revealing they were wearing very little underneath, and recited a poem which contained, in terms, that the company are acting in a manner described as 'Shylock'." The judge said there was an innuendo that the company was behaving on its legal obligations.

A reporter and a photographer from a national newspaper had arrived at the same time as the Kissagram, he said. The company feared that the same thing would happen at the premises of the Church Commissioners later in the year, when the parties were due to complete the sale of certain church properties to NH Finance.

Undercover team's game of cat and mouse 'led to IRA explosives haul'

An Irishman casually played snooker, unaware of the undercover police and that he had led them to a big IRA explosives cache, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

Mr Nathaniel Vella, aged 30, had been following from London to snow-covered Annesley Forest, Nottinghamshire, on January 17 last year said Detective Inspector Matthew Dwyer of Scotland Yard's Special Branch.

He was one of the targets in a game of cat and mouse which began when he boarded an early morning train at Euston in London for Northampton.

Detective Inspector Dwyer, heading the surveillance operation, discreetly followed Mr Vella when he travelled by underground from Euston to Euston. There other officers took to the trail and by the time Mr Vella arrived at Northampton station, Detective Inspector Dwyer was sitting outside at the wheel of an unmarked police car.

Mr Vella — who is not on trial — and three other men were secretly photographed as they left the station in a white Rover car.

One of the party was 20-year-old Paul Kavanagh, who, with Thomas Quigley, also 20, and from Belfast, is on trial. They are accused between them of 10 terrorist offences, including three murders.

They are said to have been members of a provisional IRA unit in a month-long series of bomb attacks in London in the autumn of 1981.

They are charged with murdering Mrs Nora Field, 59, and Mr John Breslin, 18, victims of a nail bomb blast outside Chelsea barracks on October 10, and explosives expert, Mr Kenneth Howorth, blown up while defusing a bomb in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar on October 26.

The Rover eventually parked in a layby on the A611 in Annesley Forest. "I saw that Vella was already out of the vehicle," Det Insp Dwyer said. "Kavanagh and another man described as 'B' had also got out. 'There was snow on the ground and Mr Vella was throwing a snowball."

The three men walked in the direction of the wood and went out of my sight," he said.

The jury has heard that in the forest police later seized two buried plastic fermentation bins containing 113lb of gelignite. On the same day Kavanagh and the others led the surveillance team to Saley Forest, Northamptonshire, where another cache, described as a "comprehensive collection of terrorist hardware," was also recovered.

The trial continues today.

Sizewell safety cost

By Roger Milne

The Central Electricity Generating Board claimed yesterday that clearing outstanding safety issues would only add a further £4 million to the cost of Sizewell B, the pressurised water reactor (PWR) planned for the Suffolk coast.

The board said this forecast on the second day of its lengthy closing submission on the safety of the PWR at the hearing at the Snape Maltings.

Lord Silcock, QC, for the board, told the public inquiry that the 19 safety issues still unresolved between the board and the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate (NII) should be settled by January next year.

He said the board and the NII were confident that this extra work would not delay the £1.2 billion project.

The CEGB is hoping to make a start on the main foundations for the PWR in October, 1986, if the government gives Sizewell B the green light.

Lord Silcock told the inquiry inspector, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, that the safety of Sizewell B was a matter of "prophetic, like its economics."

The inquiry continues.

Libel damages 'too high,' say judges

An award of £250,000 "exemplary" damages against the News of the World in favour of 10 policemen was ordered by a judge yesterday after a finding of being raped was found to be grossly exaggerated. Lord Justice Stephenson said yesterday in the Appeal Court.

"I cannot myself see how 12 reasonable men and women could have thought it reasonable to impose so heavy a penalty, even on the proprietors and publishers of a newspaper, with an immense circulation in order to mark public disapproval of their conduct," he said.

The court unanimously ordered a retrial of the exemplary damages issue — £25,000 — which was the highest awarded against a newspaper for libel by an English court.

It included a total of £3,000 compensatory damages.

The entire male CID section stationed at Banbury, Oxfordshire, in 1978 had sued News Group Newspapers Ltd over an "exclusive" report which accused them of rape, assault and blackmail.

The accusations were made by David Brain who, at the time of publication, was holding hostages at gunpoint in the village of North Aston near Banbury.

Brain had written to the News of the World.

During the libel trial, the 10 policemen told the jury that a cloud of suspicion hung over them in the aftermath of the siege. The News of the World denied libel.

Lord Justice Stephenson said the trial judge, Mr Justice Croom, had given an impeccable direction on compensatory damages but there had been substantial and serious misdirection on exemplary damages.

'Vital plea' for painting

By Donald Winteregg, Art Sales Correspondent

THE BRITISH Museum launched its first appeal to the public for 53 years yesterday in an attempt to acquire a masterpiece by the visionary artist, Samuel Palmer (1805-1881).

The museum is hoping to raise £170,000 towards the £200,000 needed to buy the 7 1/2 inch by 11 1/2 inch water-colour, "A Cornfield by Midnight."

It was recently sold by private treaty but an export licence was refused until the end of April. This gives the museum until then to match the price.

The museum was forced to appeal for money because rising costs meant that there was not enough cash from private funds and trusts, said Sir David Wilson, the director. He said the museum was very shocked when the government recently cut its spending grant.

Sir David said the work was exceptional and a vital part of Britain's national collection.

He pointed out that it dates from Palmer's most creative period when he lived in Shoreham, Kent,

Prosecution 'success' by RSPCA

By Sarah Roseley

The RSPCA reported record figures yesterday for the number of calls they received from the public last year — over a million — and for the number of convictions they secured in cases of cruelty to animals.

The society, funded entirely from public donations, investigated over 47,000 complaints last year, and in 1,900 cases, people were successfully prosecuted. Complaints have gone up by over 7,000 on the previous year, and convictions by 552.

A RSPCA spokesman, Mr Mike Smithson, said: "We want to demonstrate as the oldest animal welfare organisation that the police are looking to achieve results by acting within the law."

Mr Charles Marshall, chief officer of the RSPCA inspectorate, said that the record figures reflected a continuing flow of more cruelty and neglect of animals by the general public and greater efficiency, combined with modern radio equipment, on the part of the inspectors.

Particular concern was expressed about the trapping of wild birds which are sold to collectors here and abroad. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, birds, nests and eggs are protected. The message to the British public is leave them alone," said Mr Michael Hartley, regional superintendent for the Midlands.

Inspector Basil Farrant, who works in south London, said: "I believe the eagles of wild birds is reaching epidemic proportions in this country. There is a great deal of unemployment. People are beginning to see that there is money in it. We are trying to throw open the whole thing."

Seven protesters from the Animal Aid group chained themselves to badger traps, blocking the main entrance to Ministry of Agriculture offices in Exeter yesterday. They were protesting at Ministry slaughter of badgers.

Forgery raid

Several men are to appear in court after the discovery by police of a cache of counterfeit £50 notes with a face value of around £300,000 — in a raid on a caravan park in Leicester.



Hammer blows... Defiant squatters can only watch as their dream is shattered by a bulldozer and a council bailiff, below



Dream ends for squatters

BULLDOZERS yesterday began to flatten Britain's biggest squat — 70 Victorian terraced houses in Argyle Street, Norwich. The bulldozers were accompanied by 100 police officers and council bailiffs. But they met no resistance.

Five years ago the first of 200 squatters moved into the condemned houses with the object of setting up an alternative society. They painted houses, lamp posts and even the road surface in vivid colours. They formed the Street Housing Co-operative and persuaded Norwich City Council to license the squat, with rents of £1 a week.

But many of the original settlers drifted away. Hell's Angels, drop-outs and criminals moved in. Peace gave way to violence. Rent collectors were threatened, drugs were sold. When the council obtained possession orders against the remaining squatters there was talk of armed resistance. Police last week seized weapons including air rifles, pistols, axes, a sword and a crossbow.

But only a handful of squatters stayed on to watch the demolition of their dream. The city council has offered to rehouse the dispossessed in a disused warehouse.

The street will be rebuilt as council houses and flats at a cost of £1 million.

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Court withdraws ban on anti-cruise protesters

By Stephen Cook

Wiltshire Police yesterday abandoned an attempt to prevent people arrested while demonstrating against United States cruise missile exercises on Salisbury Plain from re-entering the county before their court hearings.

No action was taken yesterday against four women who broke the bail condition. Magistrates last week told them not to re-enter Wiltshire until March 4. They defied the order and were re-arrested on Tuesday when the missile launchers were returning to Greenham Common.

Mr Michael Jeary, prosecuting, told a specially convened court in Devizes police station that the police no longer wanted the bail condition because the cruise exercise was over.

The four — Blue Joyce, Dawn Russell, Linda Moody, and Victoria Ormrod — were granted unconditional bail.

A 58th person accused of trespassing under the 1872 Military Lands Act, Ann Hodgson, complained about being kept in a cell overnight. The offence carries a maximum fine of £5. All five gave the address as the peace camp.

Three priests were detained yesterday by Ministry of Defence police, after scaling a 7 foot high security fence at the American air base at Alconbury in Cambridgeshire. The three, including two Cambridge deans, were taken for questioning along with four members of Christian CND. They had intended holding a service on the main runway.

Hot and cold

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MPs chided for doubts on claim to Falklands

By Paul Keel

The Government said it also found surprising the committee's argument that confidence in the British title was belied by the fact that these were expressing doubts about Britain's historical claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

In a response published by the Foreign Office the Government said that it regretted the reluctance to reach "a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of Britain's title to the islands."

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The Government demonstrated yesterday however that it was in no such doubt. "The Government's position on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands has been made clear on numerous occasions. The islands are British territory," the Foreign Office paper stated unequivocally.

It continued: "Britain's title is derived from early settlement, reinforced by formal claims in the name of the Crown and consolidated by continuous, effective and peaceful possession, occupation and administration of the islands since 1833 (save for the 10 weeks of forcible Argentine occupation in 1829)."

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Court withdraws ban on anti-cruise protesters

By Stephen Cook

Wiltshire Police yesterday abandoned an attempt to prevent people arrested while demonstrating against United States cruise missile exercises on Salisbury Plain from re-entering the county before their court hearings.

No action was taken yesterday against four women who broke the bail condition. Magistrates last week told them not to re-enter Wiltshire until March 4. They defied the order and were re-arrested on Tuesday when the missile launchers were returning to Greenham Common.

Mr Michael Jeary, prosecuting, told a specially convened court in Devizes police station that the police no longer wanted the bail condition because the cruise exercise was over.

The four — Blue Joyce, Dawn Russell, Linda Moody, and Victoria Ormrod — were granted unconditional bail.

A 58th person accused of trespassing under the 1872 Military Lands Act, Ann Hodgson, complained about being kept in a cell overnight. The offence carries a maximum fine of £5. All five gave the address as the peace camp.

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FAMINE AND GENOCIDE

AS FAMINE grips the Horn of Africa, the Ethiopian people are amongst those suffering the most. More than half a million have died for lack of food and shelter. The famine is the result of drought and civil war.

There is a way to help, and one which we hope you will support. If you are able to contribute to the Ethiopian Relief Committee, you can help to bring relief to the suffering people of Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Relief Committee (ERC) is a registered charity which raises funds for its parent body, the Ethiopian Relief Committee, from the Ethiopian diaspora. The Committee supports and runs a wide range of projects, amongst the most important of which are the relief of famine and the promotion of development.

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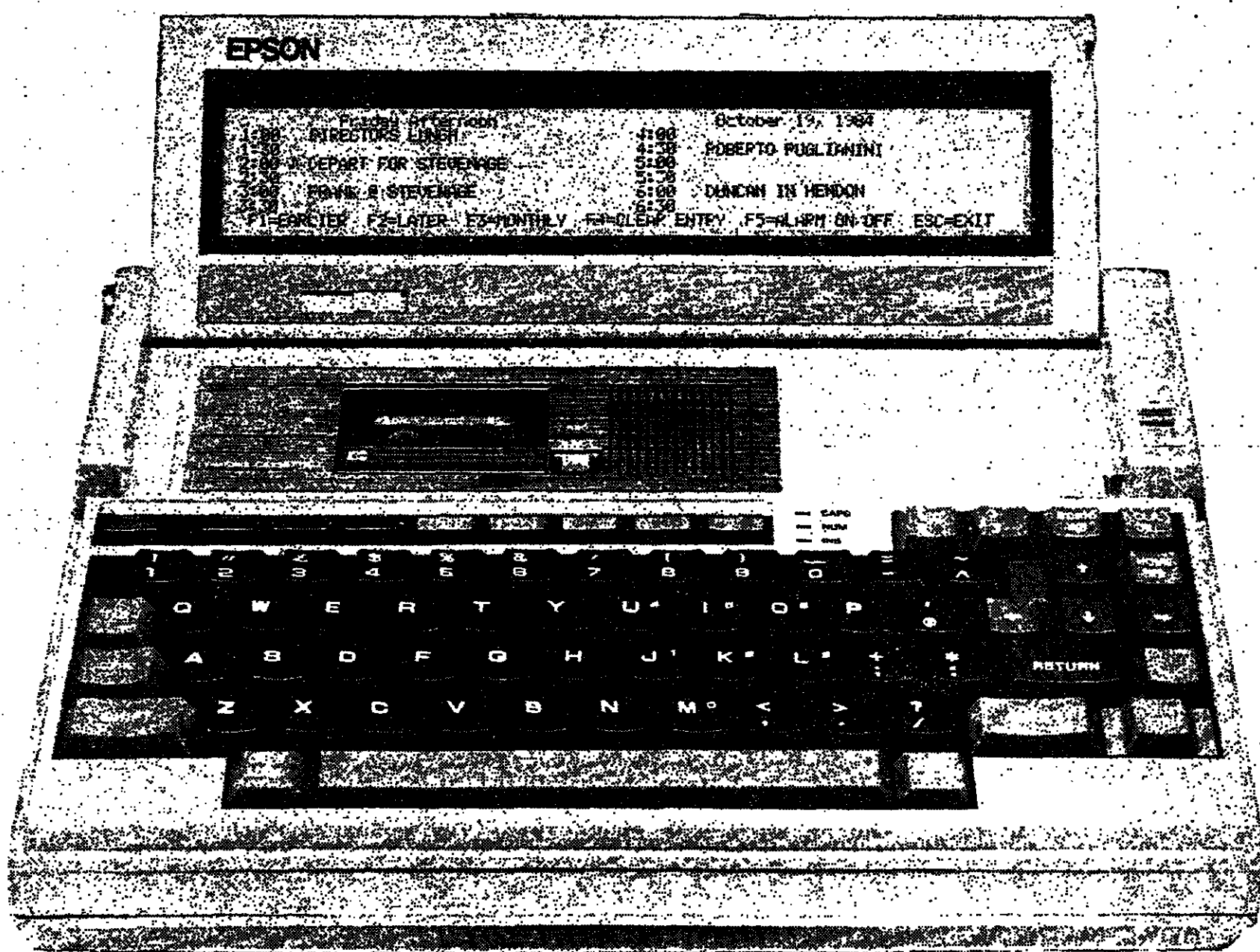
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... over lunch at Chez Solange, Leicester Square.

Shultz opposes sanctions on NZ

Washington: The US Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, has warned Congress against overreacting to New Zealand's ban on US nuclear warships.

"I don't think we want to transform an ally into an enemy," he told the Senate budget committee, commenting on proposed sanctions against New Zealand.

But he said that the New Zealand ban, aimed at keeping US nuclear armed or powered ships out of its waters, had "changed the meaning" of the ANZUS military alliance linking Australia and New Zealand with the US.

"They have a perfect right to take that view and to take that action," he said. But it had led the US to examine all the military aspects of the US-New Zealand relationship.

The US, in further retaliation against Wellington, has dropped New Zealand from another naval exercise while planning a new military operation with Australia only.

Officials here said that the new exercises were designed to replace Sea Eagle, the anti-submarine exercise, cancelled earlier. "There may be an exercise scheduled between the US and Australia to provide similar training to that of Sea Eagle. It's likely because the need for that kind of training is still there."

In Canberra, the Australian Ministry of Defence said that the US had cancelled a major annual naval exercise with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Britain.

Mr Shultz told the committee: "We believe that those who live by freedom and benevolence from freedom ought to be willing to stand up and defend it. So we're disappointed in that aspect of the New Zealand performance. But basically New Zealand is a friendly country with similar values and we don't want to overreact to what they have done."

But as a result, the Reagan administration would no longer be able to cite special relationships in seeking favours from Congress for New Zealand and in areas like import restrictions. "It's just not possible (now) to make that argument. But I would question the wisdom of passing something as momentous as a congressional action on this."

"While New Zealand has basically taken a walk from the military alliance they haven't taken a walk from Western values, and they're a friend and we need to treat them that way," he said.

Mr Shultz said he expected the US to go ahead with a joint defence seminar here next month despite the exercise cancellations.

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, is to visit the US next week to defend his anti-nuclear policy. — AP/Reuter.

Popularity of Hawke nosedives

Sydney: The popularity of Australia's Labour Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has slumped to its lowest point since he took office two years ago, according to a poll published yesterday.

The Morgan Gallup poll showed that his popularity had fallen 8 per cent in two weeks to 57 per cent. The survey shows that the conservative opposition would win an election if it were held now.

Amid Labour's poor poll showing, the Australian dollar crashed to a record low yesterday as the Prime Minister grappled with some of the worst domestic and foreign policy crises to hit his government. It fell to 66.5 US cents on Australian foreign exchanges, a drop of six cents in two days.

Mr Hawke's popularity was rated the highest of any Australian Prime Minister shortly before he gambled on early elections last December. The poll showed Labour Party popularity down seven points to 43 per cent, while support for the Liberal-National Party opposition rose six points to 47 per cent.

The widely-respected survey was carried out just over a week ago when Mr Hawke's leadership was being questioned by his own party over his handling of Australia's defence of policies while abroad. — Reuter.



Mr Bob Hawke: beset by crises

US and Soviet Union agree to discuss regional subjects

Superpower accord hints at optimism over Geneva

From Hella Pick in Vienna

The United States and the Soviet Union yesterday ended two days of talks, mainly about the Middle East, on an optimistic note. It is understood they have drawn up a list of regional subjects to be discussed at future meetings running in tandem with the Geneva arms talks.

The negotiators — Mr Richard Murphy, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, and Mr Vladimir Polyakov, his Soviet counterpart — met for five hours yesterday, following up discussions held on Tuesday.

At the end, they smiled and shook hands for photographers, but they remained true to their warning that there would be no public statement until they had a chance to report to their respective capitals.

It is, however, generally acknowledged that the fact of the two superpowers meeting to discuss regional problems is alone a useful augury for a more intensive political dialogue, and for the forthcoming Geneva arms talks.

A more concrete sign that the Soviet Union may decide to take a more constructive attitude in East-West arms control negotiations came yesterday with the announcement by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the Soviet Union had, for the first time, agreed to allow international inspection of some of its civilian nuclear power reactors.

The disclosure came yesterday during a meeting of the governors of the IAEA, set up to ensure compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Under the terms of the treaty, all participating countries are to allow inspection of their nuclear reactors by an international inspectorate.

Until now the Soviet Union has always refused such inspection, arguing, as it has done in virtually all arms control negotiations, that such inspection was tantamount to organised espionage.

Last year the Soviet Union made a move towards allowing foreign verification of arms control agreements when it proposed in Geneva that international teams could supervise, under carefully controlled circumstances, the destruction of chemical weapon facilities and stockpiles.

Little progress has been made in negotiations for a ban on chemical weapons.

But the Soviet Union has now negotiated an agreement with the IAEA providing for arrangements to send inspectors into Soviet nuclear power plants. This is not a blank cheque for inspection, and it is likely that at least to start with, the Soviet Union will only allow inspections to be carried out in four of its civilian nuclear plants.

Other signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty see the Soviet move in the context of next September's treaty review conference. All the nuclear powers, including the Soviet Union, wish to show the rest of the world positive signs that they have respected the treaty.

They will be under strong pressure from non-nuclear countries to halt the nuclear arms race, and are certain to be told that they cannot expect other countries to respect the treaty unless the nuclear powers themselves reach agreements.

Reuter adds from Moscow: A Polisher, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, widely regarded as a probable successor to President Chernenko, criticised the US yesterday for its approach to the Geneva arms talks.

"The Soviet Union is entering the talks with an honest striving to achieve practical results," Mr Gorbachev said.

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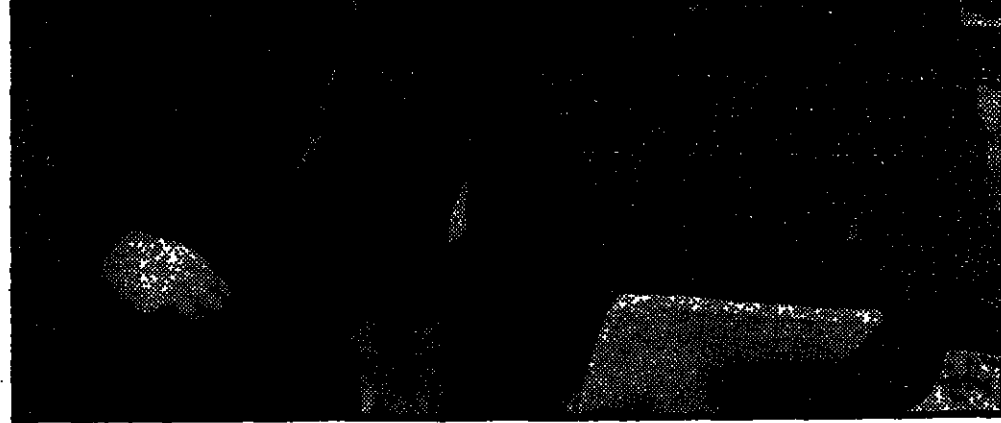
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Smiling: The Russian chief delegate, Vladimir Polyakov, leaves yesterday's talks

Star War tests 'threaten shuttle'

From Mark Traub in Washington

American defence experts have expressed serious concern at the Pentagon's plans to bring forward by two years proposals to use the space shuttle for testing Star Wars technology. The experiments are to begin in 1987.

One analyst said that such experiments would be extremely dangerous since they could involve the shuttle in possible violations of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The experiments threaten the entire future of the shuttle programme, he warned.

Under the ABM Treaty, advanced development, testing and deployment of certain types of ABM systems and their components are banned, although basic research on all types of ABM systems and components is allowed.

The Pentagon confirmed on Tuesday that beginning in 1987, two shuttle flights a year would be used to test the technology for the ABM treaty, the spokesman said that the tests did not involve a schedule for actual deployment. The programme involved pure research.

Nevertheless, some defence analysts believe that the US decision may violate the ABM treaty. The testing of components — which the Soviet Union can justifiably argue is banned by the treaty — could undermine the accord. One expert thought that the announcement may be a trial balloon to see how the Soviet Union would respond.

The US will argue that the experiments do not involve the testing of a component that amounts to a space-based interceptor or a radar system. If it had sent up the whole Talon Gold system, said one expert, it would have been clearly inconsistent with the ABM Treaty. As it is the US can argue that the hinge in itself does not constitute such a component and therefore is not a violation.

Talon Gold was originally designed to include two demonstrations of the system aboard the shuttle that were scheduled to take place in mid-1987 and mid-1988.

However, late last year, it was decided to restructure the pointing and tracking effort by including an on-board infrared surveillance telescope, and increase the required pointing accuracy to be demonstrated. This resulted in the first delay in space testing a weapons system.

Nato proposed yesterday that each of the 35 states participating in the European armaments conference would allow the others to inspect its military activities to determine whether they were threatening.

The Turkish ambassador, Mr Haluk Ozgul, presented a working paper to the conference on behalf of the 16-member Nato alliance elaborating its January 1984 proposal on verifying how countries comply with confidence-building measures to be agreed in Stockholm.

Mr Ozgul said the state should be given the possibility to check and verify the nature of military activities that might give cause for fear and suspicion. Mr Ozgul told delegates.

Warsaw: A group of eight Solidarity activists have begun a hunger strike in a Krakow church and appeal to Poles to stage similar protests against the latest police crackdown against the outlawed free trade union, opposition sources reported yesterday.

"We appeal to all people of goodwill for whom the problem of freedom and justice is dear to... join our protest and organise similar actions," read a statement issued by the hunger strikers. "Let us be united in the struggle against the regime."

The statement said the eight people began a rotational bread-and-water fast on Monday evening at a church in Krakow to protest against the violent increase of repressive actions against Solidarity activists and "the unleashing of an anti-church campaign" by the government.

The hunger strikers include Anna Walentynowicz, a Gdansk union activist whose dismissal from her job at the Lenin shipyard sparked the strikes that gave rise to Solidarity in 1980.

The text of the statement was made available to Western reporters in Warsaw by Zygmunt Lenyk, a spokesman for the Krakow Human Rights Committee.

In a related development, opposition sources disclosed that 800 former internees and political prisoners had sent a petition to Poland's prosecutor-general charging that authorities "violated basic human rights" by arresting three senior Solidarity activists.

The three activists — Adam Michnik of Warsaw, Bogdan Lis of Gdansk and Wladyslaw Frasyniuk of Wrocław — were placed under arrest after police raided a clandestine union meeting in Gdansk called by Lech Walesa to plan a 15-minute general strike on February 28 against food price rises.

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"Force is not the road to national accord — there is a need to have something more than price rises and repression to offer the nation."

Warsaw: Naturalists aboard helicopters are throwing fish to 1,000 white whales stranded in a shallow south of Russia and Alaska as an ice-breaker battles through thick ice to try to free them.

The whales chased a huge shoal of fish into Sanyavskaya Bay, just south of the Bering Strait separating Russia from Alaska, five weeks ago, ice floes then blocked their exit.

Mr Bismukhametov, a journalist with the government daily Iyvestia, said that the whales were weak but receiving fresh fish regularly from the naturalists. The shoal, which the

whales had followed, had already been eaten.

The icebreaker, Moskva, diverted from vital shipping lanes to try to force an escape route for the whales through three-yard thick floes.

"They are already golden whales," Mr Bismukhametov said, referring to the cost of the rescue. They measure up to six yards and weigh some 1.5 tons. — Reuter.

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Cruise No 2 for Canada

Ottawa: A US cruise missile will be flight-tested for the second time this week over the Canadian Arctic. It was announced yesterday.

The first test was successfully conducted on Tuesday despite opposition from anti-nuclear protesters and a failed attempt to down the unarmed missile. Yesterday's announcement gives the minimum 48 hours' advance notice under a testing agreement with Washington.

Anti-nuclear groups complained that they were caught off guard by the short notice of Tuesday's test, announced only on Sunday, and yesterday's announcement seems certain to spark similar protests.

Shortly after the missile was launched from a B-52 Greenpeace sent aloft a device called a "cruise catcher" — a net suspended from helium-filled balloons. But the air force said there was no indication the missile's guidance system had been affected.

The US asked to test the cruise in Canada, saying the climate and terrain were similar to Russia's. — Reuter.

Peru charges

PERU's attorney-general has accused a naval officer of involvement in the disappearance of a journalist and the killing of six churchgoers, public prosecutor Jorge Mejia, said yesterday. The officer, identified by a code name, was accused in connection with the disappearance of Juanita, last August, of Jaime Araya, aged 27, of the Lima newspaper La Republica. The six churchgoers died last August at Calque, a suburb of Huanta. — Reuter.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tutu bid to defuse tension

Need for tact limits scope of retaliatory measures

Israeli army struggles to cut losses in Lebanon

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

Faced with mounting casualties at the front and pressures at home, the Israeli army is exploring new ways to stem the rising tide of Shi'ite Muslim resistance in the villages of south Lebanon.

Some innovations are already in evidence but they are a far cry from the tactics of the past, despite grave and growing concern about the problem there is an almost bitter awareness that there are limits beyond which the Israeli army simply cannot afford to go.

"We've got to find ways to contain these attacks," one senior Israeli officer said yesterday, "but we must also remember that somehow we're going to have to live with these people in the future. We can't just level their villages like the Syrians used to do."

Israel Radio reported last night that when the Prime Minister Mr. Pines, returned from his visit to Italy and Rumania, the inner Cabinet will be asked to approve a series of "far reaching" measures, including collective punishments and expulsions, for use in south Lebanon.

The question of how to deal with Shi'ite resistance has taken on a special urgency since Israel completed the first stage of its planned three-phase withdrawal from south Lebanon last week.

Less than a week, four soldiers, including a colonel and a major, have been killed in the largely Shi'ite area of which will remain under Israeli control until the pullback is completed later in the year.

Yesterday, Israeli troops and armoured vehicles surrounded and searched the village of Al-Bazariya, east of Tyre, where two soldiers have been killed in the past week. UN sources said that 200 men were rounded up for questioning and that one man later was found dead with gunshot wounds.

Israeli military sources said that two armed guerrillas had been killed and that bulldozers had destroyed the petrol station where the Israeli major was killed by a bomb, and two other buildings where weapons were found.

Israeli sources said that future raids would concentrate on those areas where guerrilla groups are in the process of being formed.

Military sources meanwhile have dismissed suggestions that the increasing number of attacks on Israeli forces would speed up the pace of the withdrawal. Senior officers were quoted as saying that the next stage of the pullback cannot be completed before April because of the logistical problems: large quantities of equipment have to be moved out of the eastern sector.

But with the final withdrawal to the international border unlikely to take place until August or September, the military is now patently worried that the long process may have the effect of further increasing Shi'ite guerrilla attacks and that the resulting Israeli retaliation will lead to further escalation of violence.

General named in terrorists' killing

From our own Correspondent in Jerusalem

The man at the centre of official inquiries into the controversial killing of two Palestinian terrorists captured by Israeli troops last year, is a brigadier-general in charge of the Army's paratroop and commando forces. It was reported here yesterday.

The two men were killed on April 13 after the seizure of an Israeli civilian bus. Two terrorists died when the bus was stormed, but photographs there took pictures of two other men being led away afterwards.

A board of inquiry was set up to examine the case, but publication of many details about its findings have so far been suppressed by military censorship.

The board found that the two men were alive when they left the bus, but did not say how they died.

Yesterday's report in the Reuters Rashid news magazine was simply not submitted to the censor. It named the man.

Smiles mask fears of PLO power tussle

From Julie Flint in Sidon

SHORTLY before the Israelis pulled out of Sidon last weekend, armed, masked men broke into a Swiss-run kindergarten on the edge of Sidon's Ain Helwe Palestinian camp. Warning people in the building not to interfere, they dug up a huge sackful of guns buried beneath the kitchen floorboards. Private homes and bomb shelters the Israelis never found are said to be yielding similar caches.

Since the Israeli departure, Ain Helwe and the tiny Mieh Mieh camp on the hill above it have been ringed by a cordon of Lebanese soldiers whose mandate appears to be to protect the Palestinians from the Lebanese—and vice versa—but not necessarily from each other. Outraged, the Palestinians in the camps are all smiles, comforted by the army buffer. Inwardly, there is profound concern about the future and a possible replay of the Arafat-Abu Musa PLO conflict within the scarred and narrow confines of the camps.

These fears deepened with Monday's invasion of predominantly Sunni Muslim Sidon by thousands of Shi'ite fundamentalists from Beirut. "The people in the camp feel isolated enough, politically as well as geographically, not to be dragged into a Sunni-Shi'ite, or even Shi'ite-Shi'ite, confrontation," a foreign worker in Ain Helwe said. "But they see this happening to the Lebanese and they are very nervous with the outsiders—Palestinian outsiders—coming in to cause the same kind of problems in the camps."

"It is true that they are pleased with the army's deployment, but they aren't thinking more than a week or two ahead. If you scratch a Palestinian, there's hysteria very close to the surface."

For the moment, that hysteria is well-covered. All the people feel good. 22-year-old



ARMY WATCH: Lebanese soldiers patrol Sidon's Ain Helwe Palestinian refugee camp, where the atmosphere has relaxed since Israeli withdrawal

Ahmad from Ain Helwe says. "The army is good." A grandmother feeding her goats on the camp's rubbish dump was equally enthusiastic. "An old man died here yesterday, four soldiers came to say sorry. The army is very nice with the camp." Fifteen-year-old Abdulah, from Mieh Mieh, says: "When the Israelis were here, we were very afraid. They took the adults to Ansar—the prison camp still under Israeli control. Now we feel very safe."

The good mood is further improved by the opening of the road to Beirut and the chance to visit friends and relatives in the Beirut refugee

camps for the first time in more than 24 years. "There are no patients in the clinics," a social worker in Ain Helwe says. "Everybody is too busy visiting. They're all coming and going with presents and sweets."

At the same time, however, the refugees are asking themselves what these visits will mean in the longer term. "I suppose it will mean money," one young woman says "but also some kind of political ties..."

Although most of the popular sympathy in the camps is for Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, well-informed sources

say that most of the money and guns, such as they are, are coming from the Syrian-backed PLO rebel leader, Abu Musa. There is much talk of a deal struck, in the wider context of pacifying Lebanon, between Syria and Saudi Arabia; Syria is said to have guaranteed that Sidon will remain Sunni, while Saudi Arabia has reportedly promised to rein in Mr Arafat should he attempt to reinforce his own position in the camps to weaken Syrian influence there.

With the Israeli departure, it seems inevitable that there will be a power struggle in the camps, as there will be in Sidon. Foreign workers say the

camp Palestinians have become increasingly bold of late. Gunmen wearing coloured masks—a different colour for each camp—have been picking off Israeli collaborators inside the camps, while others have begun taking part in attacks outside.

The Lebanese soldiers posted around the camps make it clear that they have no desire at all to intervene in Palestinian disputes. If the Palestinians start shooting each other, they may well be left to sort it out with it. "Let them fight each other," one officer says. "We won't get involved—unless we are ordered to by the high command."

'Votes sold' in Kuwait election

From Jonathan Birchall in Kuwait

Kuwait went to the polls yesterday after a campaign in which more than 260 candidates fought for 50 seats in the national assembly, the only democratically elected parliament in the conservative Gulf states, and one of the few in the Arab world.

But the system, as Kuwaitis freely admit, is not as sophisticated as those in the West: less than 10 per cent of the country's 1.5 million population were allowed to vote: 900,000 expatriates, women, men under 21 and Ku-

waitis without full citizenship cannot vote.

Kuwaitis voted amid tight security in elections beset with charges of irregularities. There have been claims of interference in the democratic process, and on candidate says that he was shot at three times.

"Money is an important factor for wooing voters," the Kuwait Times reported. "The price of a vote in areas away from the city ranges between 500 and 1,500 dinars (\$1,650 to \$5,000)."

Amid the allegations of vote-buying and manipulation, critics say the Government gets the assembly it wants.

The assembly's legislative power is also subject to the approval of the Government of the Amir, Sheikh Jaber al Sabah, who can rule by decree.

The Government's influence on the assembly make-up is generally indirect, using offers of free housing, or dropping hints that a candidate is out of favour, highly effective in the small constituencies.

However, Kuwait's politicisation is growing. The Kuwaiti political scientist, Dr. Mohamed Rumei, says increasing political maturity in the reduced number of candidates—from more than 480 in 1981—and in the emergence of a "political class" of candidates, standing on concrete programmes presented to an increasingly aware electorate.



The Amir: the ultimate power in Kuwait

Jordan plan endorsed

From Eric Silver in Amman

Tunisia: The top policy-making body of the PLO said yesterday that it backed Mr Yasser Arafat's peace move with Jordan, provided they received "full Arab support."

The statement from the 10-man PLO executive committee was the first official endorsement of the "formula for joint action" towards Middle East peace worked out by Mr Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan in Amman on February 11.

It revealed a change in the formula on PLO representation to a future international peace conference, saying there should be a unified Arab delegation to the talks, including the PLO.

Terms of the accord have not been officially revealed. But PLO sources said that the agreement originally called for a joint Jordan-PLO delegation, an idea rejected by some hardliners as it appeared to dilute the PLO's sole right to represent the Palestinians.

"The executive committee approved the draft asserting that the plan should involve the parties concerned being represented in a joint Arab delegation and that all this should enjoy full Arab support," the statement said.

Elegance rules in top Saudi store

JEDDAH: The fragrances of Europe's top perfumers hang in the humid air of the Red Sea dusk as a Pakistani

labourer works an electric polisher, buffing the tiles outside Ambed R. Fitaihi's emporium on Medina Road.

"Love at Fitaihi's where shopping is a pleasure," proclaims a window display dominated by a huge blood-red heart.

A tiered Filipino tugs open the plate glass door, wiping the handle with a white cloth. "It is 18-carat gold," an aide says. "Mr Fitaihi has fine taste."

Mr Fitaihi, aged 43, is the prosperous jeweller who has just sunk a fortune—gossips say at least \$25 million—into providing Saudi Arabia's upper crust with a top jeweller's department store of their own.

He is a pacifier among several Jeddah merchants seeking to indulge, back home, a Saudi passion for high-class shopping acquired on holiday in the stores and boutiques of the West.

Within Fitaihi's, the light dazzles. Undertone are expanses of marble, much of it imported from Italy.

Priced at from a modest \$75 for a light but elegant gold chain to the stratospheric for ladies wrist-

watches in torrents of diamonds.

To meet the emporium's creator, the privileged ascend in his private lift, a brightly lit box in the age-old glass tube that glides up the coolly-elegant exterior of the House of Fitaihi.

Between signing cash vouchers or vetting a creation of the jewellery factory that shares the floor—Jewellery is his abiding passion—Mr Fitaihi can touch the buttons on a control panel and see what is going on anywhere in the store.

His is a family firm and Mr Fitaihi, head of the family, runs a taut "one-man show," in the age-old way of Arabia's merchants.

He turns out to be a deceptively mild, slight, greying man, neatly attired in a spotless robe, a devoted father of four, and lately a doting grandfather.

"Where did I get the idea for my building? We have been here for 87 years, in Mecca, then in Jeddah. Then the landlord wanted to throw us out," Mr Fitaihi says. So we thought, why not build our own shop?

It is the heart of the city, the hub of the Moazzin is broadcast among the gems and the lingerie. —Reuter.

More held in Lahore

From Eric Silver in Lahore

Police yesterday arrested 20 opposition activists who tried to demonstrate in Lahore against Pakistan's elections next week.

After about 100 protesters gathered, plainclothes police quickly moved in and bunched them into waiting jeeps.

Traffic on the main street was disrupted for about an hour and other demonstrators shouted anti-government slogans and pelleted police with stones. Police wielding batons made nine more arrests.

With all its main leaders in prison or under house arrest, the Opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) can manage no more than token protests. Those arrested yesterday included Mr Khurshid Kasuri, information secretary of Air Marshal Asghar Khan's Tehrik Islahiyah, Mr Malek Hakeem Khan, MRD acting secretary in Punjab, and Mr Ziauddin Butt, trade union organiser.

Thais repel Vietnamese

Aranyaprathet: Vietnamese troops, trying to take a hilltop in Thailand, clashed with Thai forces yesterday, killing an officer and seriously wounding two soldiers, a Thai official said.

The clash was the second reported encounter between the two sides in recent days. The armed forces commander, General Armit Kamlang-Ek, said that artillery fire was exchanged. Vietnamese soldiers attempted to take a hill in Thailand's Buriram province. The Vietnamese were forced back into Kampuchea, where they are fighting Kampuchean resistance groups, he said.

The clash occurred near the hill which the Thais claim was attacked last weekend.—AP.

Jayewardene gets tough with India over terrorists

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

President Jayewardene yesterday accused India of fomenting and encouraging terrorism in Sri Lanka at the opening of the fifth session of Parliament.

"The Government of Sri Lanka has made representations on several occasions to the Government of India that there is evidence that terrorists operating in Sri Lanka are being trained in camps situated in India," he said.

"We have also complained that the leaders of this movement live in India, and conduct illegal activities in India."

The guerrillas are fighting to set up a separate state for the island's Tamil community in Northern and Eastern provinces.

Mr Jayewardene said that Delhi has "denied that terrorists are trained in camps in India, that they operate from there and cross over with arms to Sri Lanka."

"We have suggested a joint surveillance zone which will attempt to prevent infiltration into Sri Lanka of terrorists from India soil. This surveillance can also prevent movement of refugees from Sri Lanka to India. Why should India object?"

He said that the Government might have to equip itself to defeat the guerrillas at the expense of development and welfare plans.

The Government had information on the oral and written that the hit and run tactics of the terrorists are to be changed soon," the President said.

SA doctor vindicated

From Barry Streak in Cape Town

The South Africa Medical and Dental Council yesterday dropped an inquiry into the conduct of a former political prisoner, Dr Aubrey Mokope, which might have led to his removal from the medical register.

Dr Mokope, a close friend of the late Steve Biko, the anti-apartheid leader who died in detention in 1977, was gaoled in 1978 after being convicted under the Terrorism Act for his part in organising a rally to celebrate the victory of Frelimo in Mozambique.

After his release from prison he was re-registered as an intern and later registered as a doctor.

The council, meeting in Pretoria, agreed to drop the case after Dr Mokope's lawyer argued that it had no jurisdiction in the case as Dr Mokope was not a member of the council.

The only witness for the council, Mr Nicolaas Prinsloo, a registrar, admitted that the council had been fully aware of Dr Mokope's conviction and gaoled sentence when it registered him as a medical practitioner in 1983.

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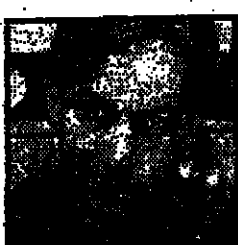
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Pictures
by
Frank Martin



Left: Red cotton drill warehouse coat (also yellow, black and white) ml only, £48; cotton rocket print shirt ml only, £35; yellow cotton drill trousers (also red, white and black) 10-14, £18 — all by Willie Brown for XLNT from Old Town, 1 Upper James Street, W1 (mail order £1.50 p.p.). White cotton socks, £4.75 from a selection at Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1. Ivory leather lace-ups (assorted colours) 3-8, £44.99 from Hobbs, The Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2 and branches. Earrings from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Willie Brown

Below: Brown stripe linen one size coat, £139; matching brown stripe linen shirt, sm, £58; white cotton one size shirt (also blue) £37.50 — all by Darlaine Gilroy from the Darlaine Gilroy shop, 327 Kings Road, SW3; The Vestry, South Molton Street, W1; Urban Renewal, Brighton; Chicque, 7 Station Road, Albrighton, West Midlands. White cotton socks, £4.75 from a selection at Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1. Ivory leather lace-ups (assorted colours) 3-8, £44.99 from Hobbs, The Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2. Earrings from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Darlaine Gilroy



Dexter Wong

Below: White nylon lace coat with cotton back (also red and blue) one size, £88; white satin viscose top (also black, blue and grey) one size, £28; white satin viscose trousers (also black, blue and grey) one size, £45 — all by Dexter Wong from the Dexter Wong shop, 28 Bedfordbury, off New Row, WC2 (mail order £2 p.p.). Earrings by Jane Childes from Dexter Wong shop. White cotton nylon mix lace socks one size, £2.99 from The Sock Shop, West One Shopping Centre, W1. White patent lace-ups (also black, blue and red) 3-7, £40 by XX from Koko, 4 Garrick Street, WC2; Acrobat, 31 Kings Road, SW3.

Hair by Gonal at Neville Daniel, 175 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-235 2534).

She is old, disabled, cannot talk and has turned their lives upside down. But, says Frank Mulville, she is worth it

Sweet Adeline

ADELIN is 79, disabled by a stroke three years ago, no speech, paralysed down her right side, unable to walk or to do much for herself. Wendy looks after her mother at home because, she believes, standards of care in the geriatric ward, or a nursing home, are too low. Adeline can't ask for what she needs — a drink, a pee, another blanket, a cup of tea — so in a home, she would get nothing. Wendy works full time. She has a husband — me.

Wendy had to go to a conference in Manchester before Christmas when there was snow on the ground, leaving me in charge of the Adeline circus. We have four ladies who come in shifts — we have discovered that a few hours is as much as most of the ladies can stand. Adeline. An old, handicapped person is demanding. It is not easy to interpret the "Da do, da do, da do, da do" which are her only words.

The first day I give her tea in the morning, pull her up in bed, adjust the cushions and clothes around her neck, say a few kind words. She beams at me. "Da do, da do, da do," she says. The first lady comes at nine and puts her on the commode. I'm not sorry that Adeline's delicacy of feeling relieves me of this task.

Adeline is breakfasted, washed, dressed, and put in her wheelchair. She can dry the breakfast dishes, wheel herself about our bungalow, lay the table, turn the furniture, do her puzzles on the kitchen table. I work (scribble) in the study. The first lady gives her lunch, puts her to bed for an afternoon rest, waves goodbye. I go to the pub along the road for half a bitter. It's snowing.

I get Adeline up from her rest. "Da do, da do," she says as I come into her bedroom. I sit her up, swing her legs round, and on to the floor as taught by Wendy, position the wheelchair beside the bed on my right, stand facing her, legs apart, put my right arm round her waist — careful of the paralysed shoulder — lift. She is able to stand, unsteadily on one leg. I turn her through ninety degrees, plonk her down in the wheelchair. "Da do, da do," she says. I'm sweating. It's snowing harder.

The second lady doesn't turn up

The second lady is due at four. It's snowing harder still — she doesn't turn up. I phone. Her car's stuck — she's so sorry. It's getting near to commode time. Adeline is in the drawing room, her tray fixed to her wheelchair. She can do simple jig-saw, draw with a felt pen, look at old photograph albums, picture books, play draughts — she cheats outrageously — with a disarming smile. She likes the telly.

I used to hate her because she was ruining our lives. I used to wish she would die. At first, when she was on the drug Prednesolone, she was

impossible — screaming and shouting "da doing" at the top of her voice, driving Wendy into the ground and driving a wedge between us. I thought she was a narrow, bigoted old woman. I thought it was a travesty of common sense to keep her alive with drugs.

Wendy stuck it out, wouldn't send her to a home because she knew they would be cruel to her — not because they wanted to be cruel but because Adeline cannot speak, cannot tell them what she wants. There had already been a nasty experience in a hospital. Adeline had devoted her life to Wendy. Wendy couldn't let her die unhappy. Slowly, Wendy weaned her off the drug and slowly, Adeline became manageable, and then nice again.

She still has a sense of humour

I telephone the third lady and she says she will come at once — Adeline is "da doing" apprehensively. Soon she comes, bravely trudging through the snow. She is a new lady — has only once been shown how to get Adeline out of the chair, pants down, onto the commode, back again, pants up. "I'll manage," she says. The snow comes thicker — I go out for supplies while I still can. When I come back all is confusion.

The third lady has tried to put Adeline on the commode and failed — Adeline nearly fell, lost her balance, and her nerve, has begun to shout. "Da do, da do, da do," I say. "Come on — it's got to be done. I'm going to help her. She looks at me and nods her head dubiously. We position the commode, the chair at right angles. I lift Adeline, hold her precariously, turn her, the lady pulls down her pants, plonks her on the commode. Signs of relief, hissing noise, reverse procedure. Adeline looks at me, smiles, and chuckles. "Da do, da do, da do." She still has a sense of humour.

Having the ladies is expensive and a lot of hassle but cheaper, nicer for Adeline and better for our consciences than a home. She likes to be in her own place with her own things and to know that Wendy is around. Her perception and her intelligence are slowly coming back. Wendy has to look after her off the drug. People love her, come to see her, children bring her presents.

The fourth lady comes at bed time, puts Adeline on the commode, tucks her up for the night. Now I don't want her to die any more — she'll probably outlive all of us but I don't mind. She has taught us to do things we thought we couldn't do. She has taught us about caring, about giving and about receiving. She has turned our lives upside down, has stopped us from doing what we want to do but it has been worth it and it still is. I don't hate her any more — I love her. And tomorrow Wendy will be back.

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CTG 289

Selling yourself

If you design a collection, why not make it available in your own shop? Brenda Polan meets three designers who have gone into the retail trade

IF THERE is one thing for which all fashion designers harbour a secret longing, it is probably to be their own retailer. Returning from a scout around the boutiques and stores which stock their clothes, most designers, inexperienced and established, have known that hand-me-the-bottle moment of futility when they ache to control the way their collections are displayed, coordinated, and presented to the customer.

As a profession, fashion designers are not much given to grumbling but when provoked, they do sometimes break down and mourn the manner in which the cherished results of their labours are treated. There is a stifled sigh for the casualties crushed to death on an over-stocked rail, their once proud colours clashing irritably with their neighbours, all strangers, the brainchildren of other, equally mournful designers.

There is a misty eye for the orphan, the bits of this and bits of that in incompatible sizes, none of which add up to make a whole outfit but which a certain buyer arbitrarily selected. And there's a tear for the poor neglected waifs left to loiter unloved in a dark, uninviting corner, faces to the wall, awaiting mark-down in the sales.

It is no coincidence that the rag trade success stories of the decade so far are not, with a handful of unusually talented exceptions, among the stores and independent retailers but among the new chains whose merchandise comes out of a single design studio and whose fashion message is clipped and coherent: Next, Principles, Benetton, and from the old guard, Wallis and Laura Ashley.

It is not ego or folie de grandeur which prompts a designer to want her or his own shop; it is commercial good sense. Great designers like Yves Saint Laurent and Gianni Versace, Karl Lagerfeld and Giorgio Armani, may occasionally ap-

pear to succumb to their own publicity but none of them takes a single self-indulgent, uncommercial step.

And they, and most of the other current great names of fashion, all have their own boutiques in cities throughout the world — including London. A stroll along Sloane Street, the Brompton Road, New Bond Street, and Brook Street, South Molton Street, St Christopher's Place, and now Bruin Street (the new Margaret Howell shop) quickly makes the point that by using decor and lighting, strong uncluttered display and a sales staff sympathetic to the merchandise, an ambience can be created which reflects and enhances the merchandise. The Ralph Lauren Polo shop in New Bond Street is perhaps the best example; you don't so much want to buy the merchandise as move into the shop — but you have to settle for buying the clothes.

Very few British designers have so far taken the step into retail. There is Margaret Howell, of course, and Roland Klein in Brook Street, Bruce Oldfield in Beauchamp Place and, in the younger market, Helen Robinson at PX in Endell Street, Covent Garden and the Swanky Modes trio in Camden. The start of 1985, however, brings three new designer-retailers into the market place: Darlaine Gilroy on the King's Road, Dexter Wong in Covent Garden, and Willie Brown on the fringes of Soho.

Darlaine Gilroy is not only one of the most talented of a new generation of designers, she is also one of the most hardheaded and practical designers of any generation. Her ambition (she insisted I ask the question) is to be the first government minister for fashion and to travel into space. She is less impatient about the latter, being prepared to wait until the shuttle takes fare-paying passengers. There is, however, some urgency about the first thing.

One of her reasons for opening her own (tiny) shop

was the fate her clothes met at the hands of other shopkeepers. "Very few people in Britain know how to merchandise properly. They make mistakes when buying because they do not have a clear view of a look or a mood that they want to sell, and then they compound those mistakes by not knowing how to present the clothes to the public. Every one is uncertain in matters of dress and customers do not react well to going into a shop and being confused even further."

And there are other good reasons, too. "In a shop you have a constant cash flow. When you wholesale you can wait to get paid and sometimes, if you are very unlucky, you may not get paid at all. If you are moderately unlucky, the retailer who can't pay will just find an excuse to send the clothes back. At least then you can sell them again. The people who come into the shop do pay you and sometimes that money is desperately needed to buy fabric, for instance, to make the next collection."

"But, although I sell well to America and to Italy and I am concentrating on the export market, there are not enough shops in London buying my sort of clothes and that means I cannot make my name in this country unless I have my own shop. Building up a list of out-of-town stockists is a long-term project, it is hard work and it is doubtful that one could sell in the quantities which are necessary. It is important to keep on increasing turnover so that you will be taken seriously by the banks when the time comes for a major development."

For Dexter Wong his minute shop in Bedfordbury was an end in itself. "I like a close relationship with the public," he says. "So I am happy if not yet rich. I love serving in the shop and talking to the customers. The feedback from them is important; I find it imposes a discipline which one does not get working in a studio for in-

stance. If anything, it makes you think in more commercial ways."

A good deal of the pleasure Dexter so obviously takes in his shop is owing to the possibilities presented by the decor. "I can change it from season to season to match the mood of the clothes. For this spring I think I will change it from all this stark minimalism and turn it into a fortune-teller's tent. That will be great fun."

Willie Brown's shop, Old Town, has a more permanent decor and theme. "It's my fictional spiritual homeland," he says. "A sort of 1950s holiday resort town. The shop used to be Demobilisation, the menswear part of Demob, across the road, and it was in that style — bleak, industrial, dingy. There's a feeling that to be credible and stylish you must have bleak premises. Old Town is going to be very cheery indeed."

He clearly relishes creating the mood of the shop as much as he enjoys the other advantage it offers him. "This is the first time," he says, "I have had the chance to put together a coherent collection, to see it displayed in strength in one place. It is very satisfying."

Like Darlaine he also welcomes the opportunity for experimenting. She says: "A shop is perfect for trying out new ideas. You get an instant response and a good indication of trends. In the same way, if a new look arrives from nowhere in the streets, you can react fast — which you cannot really do when you wholesale."

And there is another factor on which all three agree. The customer loves to meet the designer, to consult her or him on how to wear something and what to wear with it. The designer is no longer a faceless, exotic who might just be designing clothes intended to make you look ridiculous. She or he is a warm and caring human being who passionately wants you to look wonderful in their clothes and to keep the cash flowing.



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THE marriage of musical sensibility and sheer technical professionalism that lies behind Charles Mackerras's career as a conductor has no obvious parallel among first-rank maestros. You can find Muti or Abbado sometimes challenging the received tradition, armed with a purified Schindler. Specialist conductors get wheeled out for Bellini or Donizetti, and everybody's on the game of reinstating cuts.

But Mackerras, who is 60 in November, is not just a practical musician, student of Handel and Janacek autograph scores, determined not to "flout what the composer imagined." He is also one of the very few British conductors, apart from John Pritchard, who can be relied on — anywhere — to stand in at a moment's notice and get an orchestra to do his own performance purely by the way he conducts.

It's a matter of experience, in Mackerras's case of course, long experience in Germany where the flying maestro is an unavoidable fact of life, and rehearsals are more than likely to involve different players (if not singers) from those who will actually be performers.

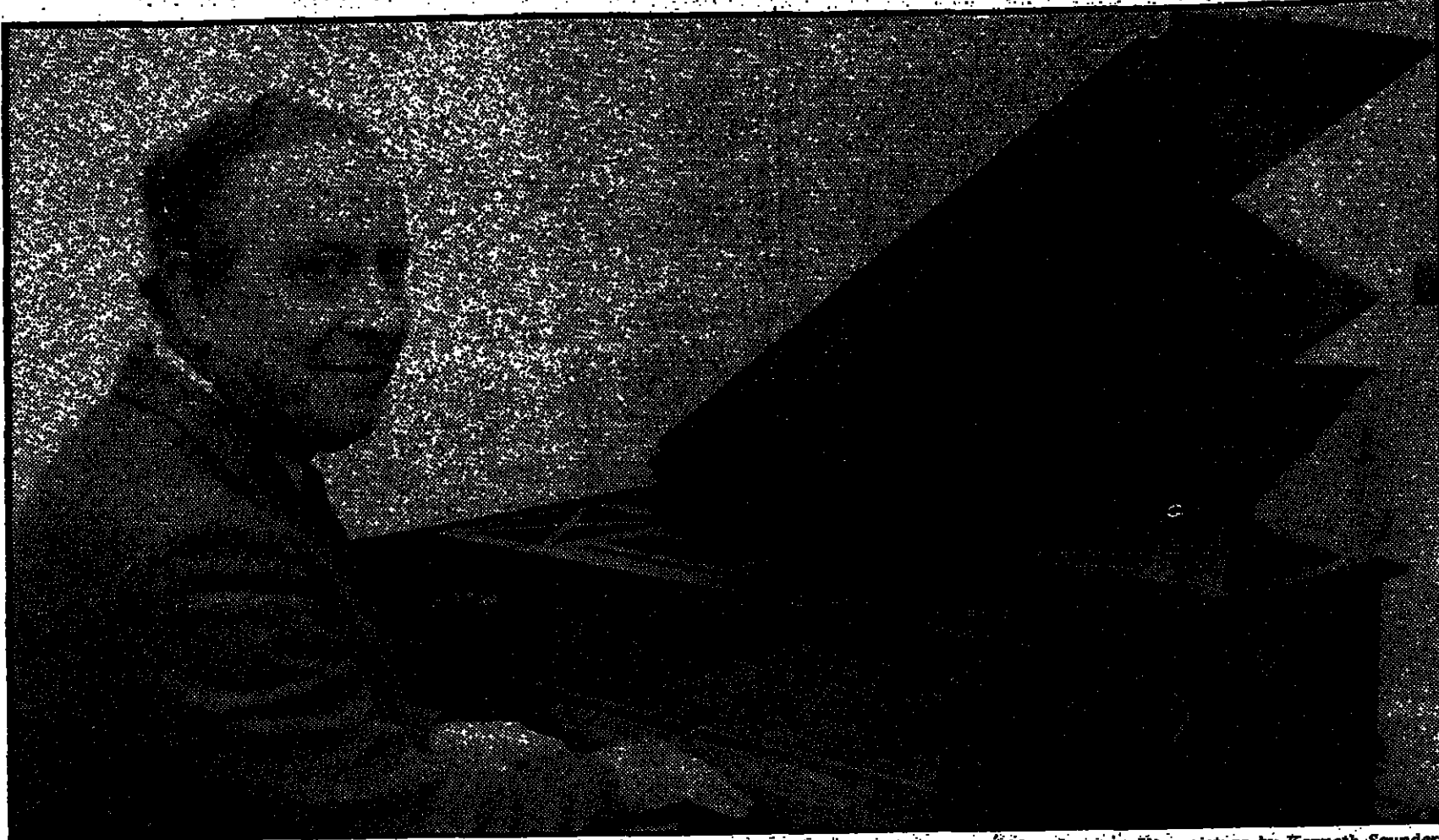
"In Germany every Tom, Dick and Harry can do it. They have to. It doesn't frighten me to have to stand in front of the Vienna Philharmonic and conduct a rehearsal. Or Rosenkavalier, which I did."

Mackerras was astounded to be asked to do the Strauss in Vienna. You must know more intrigued to be offered more rehearsals: "I said to my various friends in the orchestra, should I take this rehearsal? And the answer from all of them was, if it was five rehearsals, do them. But for one, don't do it."

"So I took their advice and conducted Rosenkavalier, which is very hard, without any orchestral rehearsal. It was one of the greatest performances of my career — at least I think it was — and got very good reviews from those bastards in the press."

Was it tricky, that kind of conducting? "Partly tricky, or knowing the trick. Being able to do it. Partly it's having a bit of sangroid, not being over-awed by it."

"The other notable thing is to have courage, not to succumb to the temptation of being careful all the time, wondering if this singer will hold that note longer or



Sir Charles Mackerras: partly trickery, sangroid and personality—picture by Kenneth Saunders

Tom Sutcliffe meets an opera conductor who makes authenticity the servant to performance

The maestro stands and delivers

shorter, feeling your way with people. You must know when the conductor has to take over, and when you have to allow the singer to decide.

"Then there's the personality of the conductor, what the Germans call *ausstrahlung*, projection. Of course it's good to rehearse things carefully, but when a work is very well known, and everybody knows what they are doing, you can often get a very great performance without rehearsal."

Mackerras says plenty of conductors can do it, and an orchestra isn't fooled. "It only takes the first three chords at the start of The Magic Flute to show the players if you can conduct it or not. And by the way, even if orchestras are well disposed towards the conductor, they often play badly at the singing is bad."

His formidable understanding of performance was fully exploited for the English National Opera's revival of Tosca last month, when Mackerras stepped in at short notice to substitute for Gastone Delogu and found himself nursing a Tosca entirely new to the role. "I watched to accompany her very carefully, and gave cues I thought only otherwise have given a singer."

The last time he'd done Tosca in English was in the Sixties with a different translation. "If it's a quick conversation opera, such as a Strauss or a Puccini, I make sure I can hear the words. That means actually suppressing the orchestra."

That's needed for Janacek too, he says, and especially

for the opening of Rosenkavalier where the initial orchestral organ encourages the players on to an impossibly high level, regardless of the conversational tone of what follows.

Mackerras's favourite conductor was Furtwängler, who he admits sprang from a musical tradition innocent of academic considerations. Furtwängler did all sorts of things that weren't what the composer intended — like the cellos and basses holding their note an extra beat in the second bar of Don Giovanni — but made sense of it marvellously. "I, not being Furtwängler, would rather do what the composer intended," says Mackerras, suggesting that musicology is partly an engine for his interpretative mechanism.

But many of the discoveries made as a result of Mackerras's scrupulous attention to autographs are very significant, precisely because of their practical consequences. He has just found that the start of Schubert's Great C major is marked "ad libitum" in cut common time, meaning a slow two in a bar. And a slow two, he points out, creates an entirely different sensation from a quick four, which may apparently signify the identical tempo.

Mozart's slow music (marked *ad libitum*) has been going slower and slower in performance because it's so impressive, four in a bar. For the Welsh National Don Giovanni, Mackerras took care to do the sections in slow two bars, faster therefore, but just as impressive. And he was very depressed when the

Berghaus staging got all the reviews and almost nobody noticed how much careful authenticity — like loud trumpets and timpani played with wood and rolled like snare drums — lay in the musical performance.

Mackerras wants to make authenticity our servant, rather than our master. He's dead against the lack of intensity and expressiveness in so many early music performances. The mistake, he thinks, is that singing styles are often being made to conform with the limitations of instrument technology of the period, whereas the development of instruments was probably in pursuit of vocal capabilities.

The virtuosity of the conductor can't have been like these terribly bland performances the authentic people turn out. But I do love the

was disarmingly honest about his difficulties with developmental writing. Which may be partly why this feeling seems more intermittent than in his Second Symphony (where seascape imagery provides more immediately memorable musical landmarks).

The new symphony certainly starts and finishes superbly — not just with the timpani and double bass figures at its birth and death, but the first movement's accelerating argument and the finale's drive to its unerring C sharp minor cadence.

In between there are striking passages — the eerie calm before the finale onslaught for one. Whatever its ultimate status, this is a profoundly serious work — the composer at full stretch and commensurate demands made on players and listeners. The BBC Philharmonic deserves the chance to present its challenge as widely and as often as possible.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

BLOOMSBURY
Edward Greenfield

Edgar and
Le Villi

Puccini's first two operas have little showing in this country and it is a pity. Both Le Villi and Edgar, clumsy dramatically in different ways, introduce a rich vein of melody not fully Puccinian but strong and memorable. It was an excellent idea obvious but unexpected, of University College Opera to present the two in double bill.

The earlier of the two, Le Villi, a version of the Giselle story completed in 1844, is the more effective and original, an opera ballet that now deserves to be presented on a grand scale. In this production by Stefan Janski the ballet was extended even beyond what Puccini intended.

Roberto the fatterish lover and Anna the girl who became an avenging wrath or will hat after egos in a ballet couple, who simultaneously mime and dance the lovers' confrontations. Only at the very end does the doppelgänger Roberto remain

standing, triumphant, when the real Roberto lies dead.

Though the idea brings problems and confusions, and the distraction of a *ballad* dancing during arias can be irritating, the piece is simple enough to stand the extra dimension. The added ballet sequences danced by Daniel Thomas and Melanie Iredale — the choreography of Frank Freeman effectively complements rather than undermines the set-piece dances of villagers and willis.

Geoffrey Pogson was a lusty Roberto, Elizabeth Byrne a paler, less secure, Anna, but it was Patrick Donnelly as Anna's father, Guglielmo who stole the show. Monocular Christopher Yip, after a shaky start, drew aptly red-blooded playing and singing from the eager UCL Opera Chorus and Orchestra.

Edgar, a curious mix of Carmen and Tannhäuser, seriously flawed even after two decades of tinkering by the composer, lost well with the inevitable limitations of such part-amateur performance.

Edgar actually enacts in Act 3 the common-enough fantasy of being present at his own funeral (just why it is not made plain), and it was quite an achievement for Janski as producer and David Blight as designer to observe so many stage instructions with such realism.

Patrick Donnelly in a small role again stood out, and Carol Rowlands presented, the impossible Tigrana with spirit and fair, but it was the ensemble work which saved the day, giving flesh and blood to some of the piece's best music. The double-bill is being repeated tomorrow and Saturday.

EXETER

Nicolas Contis

Midsummer
Night's Dream

IT IS a two-edged and rather menacing Midsummer Night's Dream that the Cheek by Jowl company have brought to Exeter this week at the start of a national tour. Dedan Donnelly's production, designed by Nick Ormerod, takes its cue from an early remark by Theseus: "Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword, and won thee with my sword, and won thee with my sword."

Everyone smoulders. The actors wear modern dress and act with modern manners. Postures and gestures, as well as the right clothes to convey occasion, underline the tensions of an uncomfortable society. There is a pecking order in Athens; it may be unspoken but it is not invisible.

Theseus, Hippolyta and Philostrate are doubled up with Oberon, Titania and an erotic anarchist of a Puck. This is suggested a sexual contract running beneath the

springy rhythms and decaying of the notes, the general rhythmic beauty of the 'authentic style', and for the ENO Xerxes I am striving to get that style from the orchestra. They've gone to a lot of trouble to reproduce the authentic style with the often scratchy tone and inexpressiveness of the authentic people."

With Noel Davies, Mackerras has prepared a new Xerxes edition for publication by Chester, in the translation by the producer, Nicholas Hynes. The manuscript is in the British Library, and Mackerras has worked with a photocopy throughout rehearsals.

"I've found the most huge number of mistakes that have never been in any other edition. And the reason I've been able to sort things out so accurately is that, unlike a musical score, I can hear it played. I'm not more observant than the real scholars: there are five or six mistakes in every aria. My heart leapt into my mouth for one blotted-out mistake when I thought I'd found a mistake in Handel's Largo. But I'm afraid it was merely an illusion."

Some of the Xerxes score is almost illegible. It seems to have been a two-composer collaboration in Janacek and Handel, who make it very difficult for you because you can't read their writing. Handel's manuscript is a dreadful, Janacek's worse — because his orchestration is far more complicated with Janacek than it was in Handel's day. And Janacek, who evidently disliked proof-reading, certainly scores are littered with errors.

The casualness about such details, however, indicates a healthy lack of pretension with which Mackerras is fully in sympathy. Mozart's scribbled notes are like a servant's messy, not intended as dead-end records. And Handel, even more than Mozart, was happy to borrow and transform any material that came to hand — just like Shakespeare. What mattered was the seriousness of the moment, what mattered was performance over which the creator at the time had full power. And Mackerras brings his conductor's technique to the service of that original and unpretentious inspiration, about which he is passionate and uncompromising.

Robin Denslow
reviews new rock
records

Velvet touch

THERE has been a 17-year wait for the most intriguing release of the week, but the Velvet Underground's VU (Polydor) has survived so well that many of the tracks put Eighties rivals to shame. Recorded between 1965 and 1968, this would have been the band's fourth studio album had it been released at the time. Instead, it languished in the band's swamped vaults as the hand-swept companies — leaving Lou Reed and John Cale to follow their unevenly brilliant solo careers.

After all these years, the "missing" VU set comes over not just as some historical curiosity, but as a remarkably lively, even cannily contemporary-sounding work. While most of the late Sixties heroes were involved in bluesy or folksy developments of psychedelia, and operating in Britain or the West Coast, the Velvets were in New York, developing a unique guitar-based sound that relied on tight, if sometimes raucous playing, and Reed's personal narrative lyrics, rather than extended solos. She's My Best Friend sounds like an early Velvet, a rocker. Foggy Notion is a blend of R. and B. while The Ocean is a mood piece using heavy drumming and a wash of guitars, and Stephanie Says shows some very pretty, especially when Cale brought out his viola. Despite their influence the Velvets were never massively commercial. After all this time, they deserve a best-seller.

Grandmaster Flash. They Said It Couldn't Be Done (Elektra). It's the Velvet sound of the late Sixties, Grandmaster Flash has done the same for black New Yorkers in the Eighties. The best-known exponent of scratching, rap and rapping, Grandmaster Flash has moved to Elektra, and, perhaps inevitably, introduced a new mainstream R. and B. feel into his work.

Obviously, Flash is no longer happy to record a full LP of music, but rather a collection of tracks, each with a different feel, a different sound, a different style. He has moved to Elektra, and, perhaps inevitably, introduced a new mainstream R. and B. feel into his work.

Far better are the bragging tributes to Flash's skills, like Alternative Groove, and the current single, Sign of the Times. The Firm (Atlantic). A guaranteed money-spinner if ever there was, this new band is in the dubious tradition of the Seventies super-groups, relying on the coupling of two once very famous names. Jimmy Page, guitar, and Robert Plant, vocals, and then a star with Led Zeppelin, teamed up with Paul Rodgers, singer with Free and Bad Company.

The result is a classy if somewhat predictable set. Leonard Cohen's Various Positions (CBS). Another legend from the archives makes a comeback, and this time it's Cohen's deep-crown, supported by Jennifer Warnes, and backing that ranges from jaunty Greek dance styles to country.

This set is far better produced than the curious experimental Death Of A Lady's Man, and contains a series of new songs about love, life and death in which Cohen's deep-crown, supported by Jennifer Warnes, and backing that ranges from jaunty Greek dance styles to country.

It's an attractive album, if you like Cohen's voice as it does, and it's a good example of the opening tracks is matched by lyrics shot through with religious references that range from the clever Hallelujah to the deconstruction of Night Comes On.

Al Green: Trust In God (Hi Records/Demon). The man blessed with one of the greatest soul and R&B voices of them all, who sold 20 million records and caused riots in the early seventies, has in recent years moved back to the gospel style with which he started. As he's become less obviously commercial, it's become harder to obtain his records in Britain, but this new set shows that wonderful light and sensual voice is still intact. Despite the title, this is not simply a gospel set so rolling, saying going R&B songs like Up The Ladder To The Roof are included alongside the title track, which shows off his high, pure voice on a ballad.

Phil Collins: No Jacket Required (Virgin). Guaranteed to be one of the best-selling of the year, this is Collins' third solo album away from Genesis and shows him developing his skills both as an exponent of black-influenced dance styles, using synthesizers and electronic percussion as well as drums, and as a balladeer. As he has been playing at the Albert Hall, he's a versatile performer, and the selection here ranges from the driving Don't Lose My Number, with drum machines, matched against Daryl Stuermer's excellent guitar work to a stirring ballad, Take Me Home, with Helen Terry. Sing and former Genesis singer Peter Gabriel, joining in the chorus, I find Collins' style, pleasant and impressive, rather than smug.

TELEVISION
Hugh Hebert

There Comes A Time...

WHICHEVER button you pushed last night, on pranced players trying hard to live up to, or live down, the parts that made them famous. There was Martin Shaw heading for the last place on earth, Susan Woodbridge and Geraldine James in flight from the Raj, George Cole on the run from Minder, and Andrew Sachs tearing off his writer's pea jacket. Great fun for them, but a bit confusing for the punters. Television is stereotypes or it is nothing.

In the first episode of There Comes A Time... (Yorkshire), Sachs plays a

company director who doesn't like the look in his doctor's eye, decides to keep fit, and is then told he is a medical phenomenon. The only British victim of a condition so clock-like and predictable in its progress that the busy executive can fit his schedule round it. This is billed as a situation comedy. But any comedy there is turns out to be entirely incidental so far, and nothing to do with the central situation, which is rather less amusing than piles.

To make this kind of thing funny, you have to be thoroughly outrageous, totally OTT, an approach that sometimes reduces you to a wretched heap of shameful laughter. But Sachs is too gentle and subtle a comic actor to mix into this uncertain concoction.

Not that this concoction is much more uncertain than Blott on the Landscape (BBC2), which offers veers drunkenly between farce and satire. It has improved

slightly at its mid-way point, with Geraldine James keeping better control over her bodice and her imitation Margaret Rutherford.

The plot has thickened, with Sir Giles blackmailing the Ministry man, the inquiry judge, and pouring verbal poison. Claudius-like, in a fellow MP's ear. But for those who like its more robust humorous aspects, the opening and closing sequences remained firmly in the arrested development, or buttock phase of British romping comedy; Carry On up the Gorge.

MANCHESTER/
RADIO 3
David Fanning

Maxwell
Davies prem.

HONOUR at last for Peter Maxwell Davies in his home town. Edward Downes and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra have already provided it in generous measure with their performances of his Second Symphony: now with their stirring premiere of the Third, enthusiastically received at the Free Trade Hall and scheduled for TV broadcast at the weekend, Manchester's longstanding debt has surely been paid off.

Like its predecessors, the Third Symphony has turned out at around 50 minutes and in four closely argued movements based on the traditional model. This time the outer movements, at around 19 minutes and the inner ones, at around seven, are

carefully balanced out, the finale as a "double" of the first movement, and one scherzo as a distortion of the other.

The concern with proportion goes beyond that. Davies draws on the metaphor of Renaissance church architecture to clarify his attitude to large and small scale structure; and in his weekend lecture at Manchester University, he stressed the composer's notion of movement, the mediating force between spatial and temporal concepts. When the music strikes home it is this intoxicating sense of moving within the music that grips the listener.

In this same lecture Davies

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FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SOME species are worth more than others. However much that thought may stick in the throat of certain conservationists, who assert that all species are biologically equal, and hence equally deserving of our support efforts, it turns out to be all too true when we look at the way the world works. Of course, in principle, all species may merit protection from man-caused extinction on certain ethical grounds — but that is another story. Biologically speaking, there is still no way, a demonstrable "pecking order" in nature: some species contribute more to their ecosystems than do others.

Consider, for example, the durian. This Southeast Asian tree produces a fruit that is considered a delicacy, with a strong taste somewhere in between best strawberries and rotten garlic. Even though the set of consuming it may be compared, because of the smell, to eating dessert in a run-down public toilet. The durian tree is pollinated by a single species of bat. Conversely the bat appears to find its main, though not sole, source of nectar food in durian trees. The bat spends a good part of its day roosting in caves, and large numbers of this particular species occupy caves in the environs of Kuala Lumpur, known as the Batu Caves.

About 25 miles away from these caves are coastal mangrove swamps, in which grows a particular flower that is also favoured by the bats. The swamps have been undergoing reclamation for building land, which reduces a significant food source of the bats. Moreover, the Malay Peninsula, like most other parts of the Third World, has developed a hearty appetite for concrete. So the Batu Caves have been steadily disappearing for their limestone. In the wake of these two assaults upon their life-support systems, the bat populations have declined.

Fortunately the blasting of the Batu Caves has recently been halted, in order to safeguard the bats' roosts among other reasons. But as long as the mangrove swamps continue to be eliminated, the bat populations steadily fade away.

During the lengthy stretches of the year when the durian tree is not in flower, the bat sustains itself by feeding on the nectar of several other plants, not only the mangrove species but certain trees of the rainforest. So were the bat to disappear, several other trees apart from the durian could be in trouble. In turn, this means that if conservationists are to safeguard the ecological network that supplies nectar to the bat, and that the bat sustains as a critical pollinator, they must safeguard extensive patches of forest in order to protect both the bat and entire communities of associated plants.

By virtue of its unusually significant role in its ecosystem, the bat deserves the ecological label of "keystone species."

The Indian fruit bat, industrious pollinator. (Picture by Frank Lane)

Without the bat, we could all be on a sticky wicket. It pollinates bananas, avocados, cloves, guavas, cashews, and even the disgusting durian and the kapok tree. Norman Myers considers the case of the keystone species

Key links in the life chain

As such, it illustrates the ecological linkages that have come to light within tropical forests during the past few years. If we were to trace the many dynamic relationships that constitute the full fabric of forest life, we would surely find many such instances. The bat, while we continue to disrupt and destroy tropical forests, with next to no knowledge of what we are doing. Together with nectar-consuming bats, a good number of fruit-eating bats are like-wise important to the workings of tropical forests. The abundance and variety of forest fruits is complemented by an array of fruit-eaters that disperse the fruit seeds. In forests of Asia and Africa, fructivorous bat species are as numerous as all the birds, mammals, and other creatures that consume fruits. Moreover, fruit-seeking bats



often visit flowers, thus pollinating them. All in all, bats pollinate hundreds of genera of tropical trees and shrubs, thereby fostering the prosperity, and often the very survival, of many plants that we encounter on our British meal tables, including bananas, avocados, mangoes, cashews, cloves, guavas, and breadfruits. In addition, many other plants rank as "bat supported," notably the kapok tree and several timber and fibre trees. The one-on-one link between the Batu bats and the durian tree is paralleled by mutually supportive relationships between fig trees and wasps. The fig genus, the most distinctive and widespread of plant genera in the tropics, comprises more than 800 species, each of which is pollinated by its own species of wasp. At the same time, the wasps depend on the ovaries

of the figs as sites for their larvae to develop. A further illustration lies with the Brazil nut tree, which is commonly known for its tasty fruit, and is widely harvested in Amazonia as a cash crop. This huge tree is pollinated solely by an iridescent insect, a member of the euglossine group of bees (the busy euglossines occasionally cover as much as a dozen miles in little over one hour). Likewise the tree's nut depends for its germination on a sharp-toothed rodent, the agouti, which chews and softens the seed coat. So this towering tree requires, for its reproductive system, the services of a high-flying bee that pollinates flowers in its crown, and a forest-floor rodent that disperses its nuts. Of the two creatures, the euglossine bee appears to be the more important in that it also pollinates,

among many other plants, aroids — and in turn, these plants often supply prime sources of food to sundry other insects, which pollinate further plants, and so on. In this crucial sense, we can view the euglossines as "mobile link" species — a kind of counterpart concept to that of keystone species. Many other cash crops, after the pattern of the Brazil nut tree, are pollinated by obligate insects or bats or birds. Tiny midges and thrips pollinate rubber and cocoa; bees and others of the Hymenoptera order pollinate passionfruit and cucurbits; flies pollinate cashew, mango and kola nut; nocturnal moths and bats pollinate kapok, calabash and balsa trees; and hummingbirds pollinate wild pineapples. All these pollinator relationships of specific sort

(literally intended) form part of larger food webs, often with their own keystone species and mobile links. For instance, in a tract of Costa Rica forest, a single bird, the masked tit, is an exceptionally proficient seed disperser of a canopy tree *Casahuate carymbosa*. But the tree supports not only the bird, but 21 other fruit feeders which depend on it almost entirely during a 2-6 week period of the year when virtually all other food sources give out. Were the tree to decline drastically in numbers (through e.g. over-logging), this would lead to the demise of the masked tit, with adverse repercussions for the other trees whose seed it disperses; and a related fate would overtake several toucans that feed on the tree's fruits — as on the other trees

whose fruits the toucans disperse.

This basic concept of pivotal linkages within tropical forest ecosystems can be extended to a thousand of plants that, through their nectar, pollen and fruit, supply critical support for multitudes of insects, mammals and birds. For example, figs, with their several hundred species, and epiphytes, with their thousands of species. Further, if as a result of man's disturbance of the forest, a keystone species is eliminated from its ecosystem, the losses may run to that of several other species.

Still more to the point, these additional losses may, in certain circumstances, trigger a cascade of linked extinctions. Eventually a series of the forest's food webs could become unravelled as they are through the co-evolution of plants and animals that have sustained each other through ever-more complex relationships, they can steadily become destabilised from start to finish of their workings, with a "shatter effect" throughout their ecosystems.

Thus the exceptional intricacy of the forest's fabric of life. When human incursion causes the severing of a few threads, the damage can ultimately lead to rending of the fabric from top to bottom.

Furthermore, many pollinators of tropical forests, in common with a good number of other species, exist at very low densities. This leaves them unusually susceptible to sudden elimination. Not only are there obvious threats such as forest burning and other disruptions at the hand of humans. By virtue of their sparse numbers, these species are subject to stochastic extinction — meaning, roughly, "random" extinction. The phenomenon occurs when populations, fluctuating as they often do between high and low points, descend a demographic curve to a point from which they cannot recover.

Or a population may die out because of genetic quirks. Under natural circumstances, these localised events do not matter, since a population can be re-established by colonisers from neighbouring populations. But if, say, a park were to be established in a tropical forest without space enough to account for small-scale disturbances of "fragile" species, the park might be unable to sustain a complete forest community, even though it were to total hundreds of square miles.

In temperate zone forests, generally with only one tenth as many species per unit area, a park can generally protect a sufficient spread of ecosystems while covering a much smaller tract of forest in the humid tropics, by contrast, we need to consider that a park should usually cover at least 1,000 square miles, often much more, to do its job.

Dr Norman Myers is a consultant in environment and development.

Short sighted

SIR Keith Joseph, as Minister of Education and Science, has complained (from time to time) that it is useless bemoaning the alleged degradation of British science without producing any real evidence that degradation is actually taking place.

"Give me some ammunition, some real evidence that harm is being done, and I will then have a word to argue," says Sir Keith, in the best of the traditions of Conservatism. The fact that institutes are closing, that advice is being taken, that the withdrawal of Britain from international scientific commitments, that scientists are being retired early in hundreds and that the entire academic scientific community sees its structure and purpose in tatters, is not evidence enough.

Let us look at nuts and bolts of research, at something simple but explicit: any major high technology item of equipment would do but, since we have the figures and some of the facts, consider electron microscopy.

It is one of the less well known secrets of the Falklands engagement that some of the Royal Navy's extremely high frequency oscillators were not as reliable as they seemed to be, a problem put down to lattice faults in crystals. To investigate these faults, probably caused by very low level impurities during crystal growth, it was necessary to use the relevant defence laboratory with new electron microscopes. That these were (of course) Japanese is beside the point. The point is that the highest level investigation could not be done without first installing instruments that operated at the cutting edge of the technology. You want to know which laboratory? It is Malvern.

That too is beside the point, for we all know that under Thatcherism swords come a long way before ploughshares. The very least indication of what is necessary if the highest level of work is to be done. The situation in universities and the civil institutes needs to be thought of in that light. It happens that the vice-president of the Royal Microscopical Society, an electron microscopist and biologist, has looked broadly at the situation in universities, estimated the current costs and given some thought to the disbenefits to science of failing to keep up with the times.

Firstly, it needs to be recognised that, in the critical condition of failure of the dual support system for science, replacement of large items of equipment cannot take place. Many laboratories are in a state of equipment which is obsolete, which is increasingly out of service and even when operating can neither achieve its original specification nor hope to match that of new equipment.

If you regard science as some kind of race, as it sometimes is in crucial fields of development, then the present situation might be compared to that of offering British Grand Prix drivers the 1936 ERA as a machine to challenge 1985 opposition from abroad. An exaggeration, maybe, but a correct analogy. The scale of equipment replacement needed is large, even in this single field, which is one of many and merely serving as an example. Simply to replace the more expensive scopes at their current level of use in academic laboratories and assuming a routine lifetime of about a decade (getting long in the fourth year), now costs in the region of £2 million a year. That is a significant proportion of a major budget—about 5 per cent of the Science and Engineering Research Council's vote, for example. The money is not available.

Thus the laboratories are condemned to use geriatric equipment. The disbenefits which result are enormous. For example, it is impossible to train students or young post-graduate scientists to the highest current technical levels. They therefore emerge comparatively less well trained than they were a few years ago and, more seriously, less well trained than their fellows in other countries. The British laboratories will become increasingly less attractive to overseas students and British graduates will be less able to contribute to research at an international level, or to compete in the general international scientific scene. They become second rate.

A spin-off from reverberations and degradation of the system further is that, with equipment that is below standard in the sense that it is unreliable or technically inferior, it becomes impossible to define appropriate research projects that relate to the cutting edges of either science or technology. Thus the bridges between university research and industry become even shakier and grant applications to research councils have to be downgraded to what is possible rather than what should be attempted.

Thus, for the want of equipment, is science degraded and lost. Not quite for the want of a nail, but damn near. That should be ammunition enough for a start. Maybe if the Department did some real digging it could find a great deal more. But does Sir Keith really want to know? Are you there, Peter Brooke?

Anthony Tucker

What puts the Mother into Mother's Pride

Even yeasts have hormones. Paul Simons looks into an evolutionary puzzle

ALTHOUGH yeasts are known to make steroids (such as cholesterol), this is the first time that a real vertebrate animal steroid has been shown in such a simple organism. But what effect could oestrogen have in the yeast? The simple answer is we don't know. In mammals oestrogens act on the central nervous system, turning on mating behaviour in females.

Yeasts have none of these features; indeed they are only single-celled organisms, and the word hormone is used to describe a chemical that communicates between cells in a creature. All the more astonishing then that these simple creatures and humans make chemical messengers that can bind to each other's receptors.

But we already know that other fungi have a liking for mammalian hormones. In the case of disease-causing fungi, they may even use the animal's hormones to regulate their growth and development. This may explain, for instance, why the pernicious yeast *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, which causes a devastating disease in South America — is much more common in men than women.

Because of their work with other yeasts, the Stanford scientists suspected that the organism might prefer men because it has sex hormone receptors that bind and recognise sex steroids. The researchers discovered oestrogen receptors in *Paracoccidioides* and found that oestrogens inhibit the conversion of the filamentous form of the yeast (which is inhaled), to the yeast form of the fungus, the infectious producer of the infection.

So far as our food is concerned, the levels of oestrogen found in the yeast are quite low. But as the authors speculate "Since *S. cerevisiae* is the yeast used extensively in the baking and fermentation industries, it is possible that this oestrogenic substance may enter the human food supply and affect public health. And then we might know what puts the Mother into Mother's Pride. Nice one *Saccharomyces*."

Science Vol. 224, pp 1,109-1,111. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, Vol. 81, pp 4,722-4,728.



Entomological specimen, one in 30 million. Mark Collins reports on entomology's big event for 1985 and explains why 150 scientists are tramping through the forests of Sulawesi in pursuit of a few million insect species

The other Wallace collection

PEOPLE often ignore insects, at least until they are bitten by one. The reasons are not hard to find. Firstly they tend to be too small for our optical apparatus to resolve clearly, and secondly there are so many of the little devils that our cerebral wiring becomes overloaded. Fortunately some people have persevered; dedicated bands of entomologists have now been peering into the ways of these six-legged creatures for several hundred years. At the end of the 17th century the great British naturalist John Ray estimated there to be about 2,000 species of insects in Britain and perhaps ten times as many worldwide, a delightfully insular view, but quite wrong. Two centuries later, the British explorer and naturalist Henry Bates was amazed that within an hour's walk of his home in Para, Brazil, he collected more than 700 species of butterflies, about twice as many as in the whole of western Europe! We now know that Britain has over 20,000 species of insect, roughly the same as the total of all the mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles in the entire world! With a million species described worldwide, three out of every four animals are already known to be insects. But estimates keep spiralling upwards to quite bewildering numbers. The extraordinary diversity in tropical rainforests has led to growing speculation about just how

many more insects remain to be found. The debate has an almost Victorian flavour — the wonders of nature unfolding to humbled and amazed mankind. Many say that 1 or 2 million unknown species still lurk under logs or in the treetops of steamy tropical jungles, others would put the figure nearer 10 millions; no one really knows. The latest calculations, published more as a challenge to others than as the final word give an estimate approaching 30 million! One hundred and fifty years after its foundation and its century after its Royal Charter, the Royal Entomological Society of London still has this fundamental problem in mind. To help tackle it, the Society is mounting a year-long expedition to the densely forested slopes of the Dumoga-Bone National Park in northern Sulawesi, Indonesia. They call it Project Wallace, named after the Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, president of the Society in 1870-71 and a great student of the insect world. It was he who discovered some of the gigantic birdwing butterflies of present-day Indonesia.

More than 150 scientists from 19 countries will be following in Wallace's footsteps, netting, trapping, baiting, fogging with insecticides, attracting to lights, counting, picking, punting and generally observing insects. Never before has such expertise been gathered together to study man's greatest rivals. What drives them to do it? A good number of the scientists, not least the joint organisers of the expedition from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, are interested in agricultural and medical pests. The northern limb of Sulawesi is one of Indonesia's rice-bowls, and is the location for a huge irrigation scheme funded by the World Bank. To ensure a constant water supply for the rice, the Dumoga-Bone National Park was set up in a unique agreement between the World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Indonesian Government. In such big schemes rice pests like the Brown plant-hopper or one of its 3,000 Pacific relatives can cause havoc. With caterpillars in the coconuts and chives, and hogs and beetles in the beans, local farmers have a lot on their minds. But it's not just a question of spraying a bit of DDT about the place. The entomologists are more interested in studying how the pests arrive and develop, and in looking for natural predators to breed, release on the crop, and thus keep one hop ahead.

Insects have been used in "biological control" programmes all over the world, often saving millions of pounds. These entomologists believe that somewhere there's an insect to tackle every pest — it's just a matter of finding it. Often this means going back to the place of origin of the crop or weed, looking at the wild plants, and studying the insects that occur on it. With native Indonesian crops like papaw, mango, clove, and banana, not to mention innumerable under-utilised wild plants, all of which have associated insects, there is plenty to study. New agricultural schemes bring medical problems too. Mosquitoes breed in standing water and carry killer diseases like dengue fever and malaria. Some diseases, such as elephantiasis, are known to be transmitted by insects, but the culprits have not yet been found. It is important to track them down and find the chemicals in their armour. Yet it is only a tiny proportion of the local insects that can cause troubles like these; the great majority are harmless or beneficial to man. Of the possibly millions of insects as yet undiscovered, a not insignificant fraction will be of some potential value: perhaps a useful bee for pollinating crops, a moth to control weeds, or a wasp to prey on a crop pest. Reaping the benefits of the insect world depends on maintaining its diversity and not, as we seem bent on doing at the moment, reducing it. So far we don't even understand how diversity is maintained, although we know full well that it depends to some extent on an optimal microclimate, a good diversity of plants and plenty of ecological nooks and crannies to live in.

Clearing tropical forests doesn't help, but economic and population pressures make it inevitable that many of the forests will be felled. The important thing is to do it in a sensitive way and the Dumoga-Bone watershed is a very good example of how this can be achieved. The forests not only protect the soils and maintain the water balance, they also serve as a reserve for threatened vertebrates like Pygmy buffaloes, the Babirusa (a forest pig), the Giant palm civet, the Celebes tortoise and the Maleo bird, which lays its eggs in sands warmed by hot springs. Entomologists will welcome the protection of the many spectacular and aesthetically delightful forest butterflies, among them the rare Jordan's swallowtail. More importantly perhaps, it gives them a chance to return to Wallace's playground and appreciate, as he did 120 years ago, the excitement of finding new species. But the modern perspective is slightly different. With environmental pressures building up all the time it has become essential not only to understand the ecological roles of these insects, but also to realise that small and many though they are, we need them.

Dr Mark Collins is one of the editors of the Insect Red Data Book and a member of the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Unit at Cambridge.

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More
Appointments
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The green sting in Maggie's tale

Mr Biaggi, who met demonstrators before the Thatcher speech, was not nappy with its tone. The moderates were. There are millions of votes in America to be had — or lost — on this issue. Meanwhile Mr O'Neill was Mrs Thatcher's host for part of the day. But he is retiring next year and humour has it, wants to be ambassador to Ireland.



Shadowy balance sheet of republicanism

Money is also needed to support men on the run, including 17 escapees from the Maze prison in the break-out of 1983.

An IRA spokesman said in January 1984 about the kidnapping of Mr Don Tidy: "It takes considerable finance to run and organise a guerrilla war."

DS runs more rampant
LL. A hapless secretary
scrubbing at Wormwood
Wrink has been refused
employment by her dentist be-
cause of fears catching the
poise of her. The POA is
anwhile worried about the
ink from a not infrequent
occurrence at the Scrubs, an
example of which happened
Tuesday—a prisoner
washing his wrists. A suicide
is prevented by officers
trying in to save him, but
there was an awful lot of
and about

Money is also needed to support men on the run, including 17 escapees from the Maze prison in the break-out of 1983.

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The Pope's divisions at bay

No-one doubts that Cardinal Glemp's policy was pursued with blessing from above, but the experiment was always orchestrated in such a way as to keep the Pope free of any blame, and free to swing his weight

land have international ramifications of worrying sorts. Many of our translators and theologians, from the liberation theologians to Western Europe's Bruce Kent, would quickly draw lessons from a politically active Pope.

General Jaruzelski must be hoping that the Pope chooses to avoid using overt political influence; certainly he can't be sure that his taming of the church is complete. Meanwhile, throughout the world, Stalin's seemingly rhetorical question may yet prove to be one of the most important of this decade.

The flip-side of Gay Lib

torian clergymen in Norfolk, as obscure as their parishes, to songwriters whose tunes you hummed yesterday.

Annan's lecture had all the merit of a gossip column recited rather than read. There were moments of comedy. When mentioning early strictures against masturbation and what he called "involuntary nocturnal emissions" his blindness was lorded over.

Annan, with unintended timing, removed his spectacles to emphasise the point.

The generalisations which

ing against a community which has lost the dynamism of Gay Lib, fully a decade ago; which has forfeited such collective leadership as gay newspapers could give, before squabbles over ownership intervened. There is not much Gay pride about; not much reason to "come out" into a public bristling with hostility about a killer disease. The irony is that, with research facilities underfunded, there will be the appearance, next month, of a penning, near the £700,000 GLC-funded Gay Centre in London. Aids must wait a shadow over it.

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Angry Labour delay Ridley



Mr Mikardo—complained

TRANSPORT

By Alan Travis,
THE Labour Opposition mounted a filibuster in the Commons yesterday which delayed by three hours, the rushed parliamentary timetable for the Government's bill to claw back £50 million in grants from the Greater London Council to give to London Regional Transport.

The move was designed to maximise the Government's embarrassment after it had to announce late on Tuesday night that the planned debate for yesterday on rate-capping orders was being postponed after last-minute changes to them and the remaining stages of the London Regional Transport (Amendment) Bill would be taken instead.

The bill, which had its second reading on Tuesday, is being rushed through the Commons to rescue Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, after a High Court judge ruled that it was unlawful and improper for him to order the GLC to hand over the £50 million to LRT.

The bill makes it legal for the Government to direct the GLC to pay over the money, but Labour spokesmen have condemned it as a "shabby little battle in the Government's war of attrition with the GLC."

The filibuster started at 3.30 pm when a string of Labour MPs rose to make lengthy speeches on a standard procedural motion arranging the day's business which is usually agreed without any debate whatsoever. Labour protested at the lack of time available to make amendments to the bill.

Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, said that while it was unusual to take the remaining stages of a bill the day after its second reading it was not unprecedented.

Mr Ian Mikardo (Labour Bow and Poplar) complained that bills had only been rushed through the House with such haste in the past when they had all-party backing and for some telling reason of state, such as the prevention of terrorism.

Mr Ridley said that the bill was urgent, as LRT would run out of cash later this month if the bill was not enacted soon. He said the Opposition had put down six amendments since 10 o'clock on Tuesday night so he could not see any value in their arguments.

The Labour move not to proceed with the bill was defeated by 180 votes to 256 (Government majority 76).

Ex-MP is police watchdog

By Colin Brown
THE former Labour Health Minister, Mr Roland Moyle, who lost his seat to a Tory at the last general election, was appointed yesterday by the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, to serve on the new Police Complaints Authority as one of its two deputy chairmen.

Mr Moyle, a Labour MP from 1956 to the 1983 general election, aged 56, is a barrister and will have special responsibility for supervising the investigation of serious complaints against the police.

The Home Secretary also appointed Rear-Admiral John Bell, the current deputy chairman of the board, to take up the full-time appointment with the new authority with special responsibility for investigations on discipline within the police force.

The authority was established under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) at a cost of about £1.6 million and will be based in London. It will have powers to supervise the independent investigation of complaints against police officers.

However, it is required by the legislation to carry out an investigation into any case involving death or serious injury. Its chairman is Sir Cecil Clothier, the former Ombudsman.

Labour call for prostitutes to be allowed to advertise openly

CRIMINAL LAW

By Colin Brown
THE Shadow Home Office Minister, Mr Clive Soley, said yesterday that he had told the Criminal Law Revision Committee that they should recommend allowing prostitutes to advertise openly within the law.

Mr Soley, the Labour MP for Hammer-smith, said the committee would be reporting and he hoped that the Home Office would look sympathetically at their recommendations if they proposed measures to decriminalise prostitution.

Mr Soley said he believed that the preferred response to the problem of prostitution would be to reform the law which made soliciting by a prostitute a criminal offence.

However, government ministers made it clear yesterday that even if the criminal law revision committee made such a recommendation, it was highly unlikely that there would be support within Parliament to implement it.

Mr Soley was speaking at the first sitting of the Commons committee stage of the Sexual Offences Bill, which makes kerb-crawling a criminal offence.

Mr Soley and the five other Labour MPs on the committee pressed an amendment, with the support of one Tory MP, Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire W), to make it an offence for a man to solicit a

woman for prostitution if he did so "in a manner which causes nuisance or fear". A second amendment was pressed in a one hour 45 minutes speech by Mr Parris to make it an offence if to take place in "a manner likely to cause nuisance or offence."

Mr Parris, who tabled a series of other amendments, was criticised by the Home Office Minister, Mr David Mellor for appearing to spin the committee out. Mr Mellor said it was a prima facie case of filibustering. But Mr Parris denied the charge.

He said: "This is an area of the criminal law into which we venture with very great caution. The purpose of my amendment is to urge caution on the way in which we draft new offences in what is, in

many ways, an area of personal morality as well as public nuisance. I am not saying we should not venture at all — I am saying we should venture more cautiously."

Mr Mellor said: "It is nonsense to suggest that we are rushing into this territory. Do you not realise this was first considered by Wolfenden 30 years ago and the Criminal Law Revision Committee seven years ago. Unless a snail is to be turned into an athlete, the progress on this bill cannot be said to be Olympian."

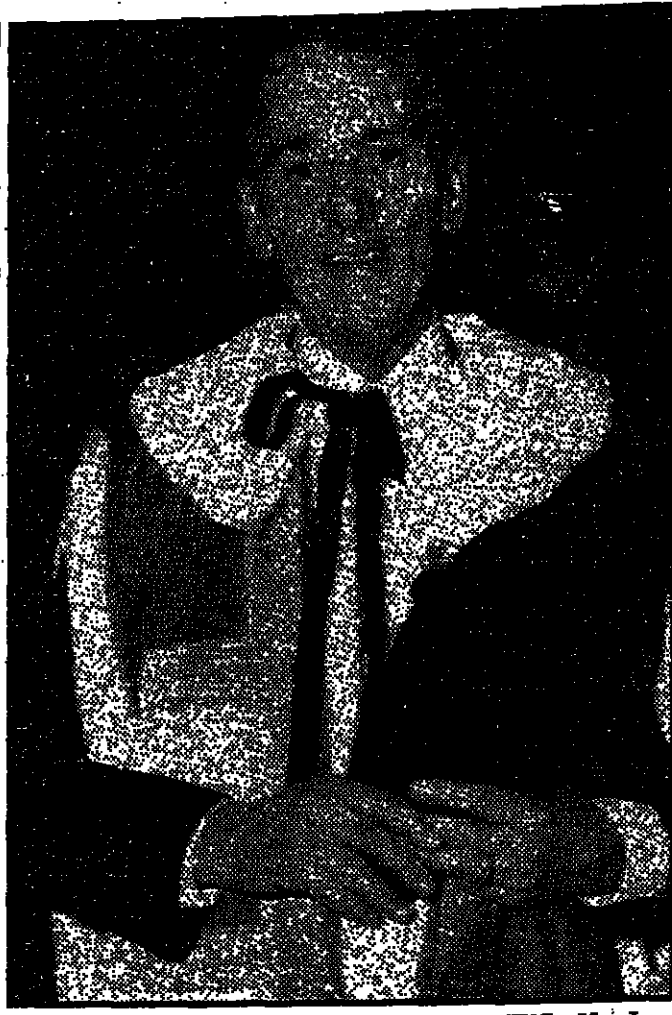
Mr Parris made detailed complaints about the drafting of the bill and suggested that by concentrating on soliciting from a motor vehicle other forms of transport, for example, a bicycle or a CS tricycle, could be excluded.

Mr Parris and Mr Soley both warned that innocent people could face arrest for stopping to ask a woman a question from the car and would be brought into the bill's net because it was drawn too widely.

Mr Soley emphasised that those seeking to amend the bill also wanted to respond to the demands of residents who wanted to prevent the nuisance of kerb-crawling.

But Mr Mellor said that if the amendments were inserted in the bill the measure would become in effect a "dead letter" as far as action against kerb-crawling was concerned.

The committee adjourned until next Wednesday, when a vote on the amendment is expected.



THE former general secretary of the TUC, Mr Len Murray (pictured above), took his seat in the House of Lords yesterday. Lord Murray of Epping Forest, aged 62, who retired last year after 11 years as general secretary, plans to sit on the Labour benches and take an active part in proceedings. "I have a lot of commitments so I don't yet know when I will be making my maiden speech, the only trouble is that it's supposed to be non-controversial and that is going to be difficult," Lord Murray said.

Tebbit opposed to frigate order

By Colin Brown

The Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, strongly opposed Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, over the placing of a £130 million order for a Royal Navy frigate with the Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside to save jobs.

Mr Tebbit was against the order going to Birkenhead because the ship could have been built more cheaply elsewhere. This was confirmed this week by MoD officials, who told the all-party Commons Defence Select Committee that the frigate would cost £7 million more because it was being built at the Birkenhead yard.

The decision is being regarded as politically significant by Mr Heseltine's supporters, who see it as a personal victory for Mr Heseltine and a demonstration that direct government intervention can help to save jobs.

His action is in line with the views of the left-wing of the Conservative Party, who regard Mr Heseltine and the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, as the champions of their cause within the Cabinet.

It is understood that the row between Mr Heseltine and Mr Tebbit over the order lasted for several months. One source said Mr Tebbit sent Mr Heseltine a memorandum telling him that on no account was the uneconomic order to be awarded to Cammell Laird.

"It was the strongest worded memo I've ever seen sent by one Cabinet minister to another," said a source close to Mr Tebbit. "He was saying that the order was being awarded to Cammell Laird."

Mr Tebbit remained opposed to the scheme and it is believed that the battle was only won by Mr Heseltine within the Cabinet after he had obtained the personal backing of the Prime Minister.

Thumbs down to lie detector—but ban sidestepped

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The Commons employment committee yesterday delivered a scathing attack on the polygraph otherwise known as the lie detector — describing it as "undesirable and unreliable." Polygraphs indicate physical reactions to questions, but tell nothing about the cause, said the committee.

But the committee's refusal to recommend an immediate ban on the machine, despite the fact that its members — a majority of whom are Tories — have nothing good to say for it, provoked an almost equally hostile response yesterday.

Mr John Gort, a leading Tory member of the committee, said that his fellow MPs had dodged the most important issue involved namely, protecting the rights of the individual. He said in a written statement: "The evidence was all there to justify calling for an outright and immediate ban on the use of the polygraph in the private sector."

GC&Q Trade Unions, which represents those staff at the Government Communication Headquarters in Cheltenham who have refused to give up their union membership, also criticised the committee for stopping short of recommending a ban on the polygraph and the pilot scheme the Government said it intended to set up after a report by the Security Commission in 1983.

The committee's report, which is the direct result of the Government's plans for GC&Q, says that an independent assessment of the pilot scheme should be made before any decision was taken to use the polygraph on a permanent basis in the Intelligence and Security Agency.

Although it says that use of the lie detector had implications that would be damaging to individual rights and harmful to good industrial relations, it recommends simply that if the use of the machine increased, the Government should set up a code of practice and a licensing system.

Mr Ron Leighton, the Labour chairman of the committee, who described the report as "representing the highest common denominator" of the membership, said that the polygraph — though widely used in the United States — had not taken off in Britain. "We think British society has more common sense than to use this machine," he said.

Asked what he thought the attitude of GC&Q officials should be, he replied: "It is a

matter for them and their conscience." The report notes that recent research sponsored by the US Government showed that it was possible to train people to beat polygraph tests and those most likely to receive this training would be those acting as agents for foreign governments.

The committee says it cannot comment on the judgment of the Security Commission in the recommendation for a pilot scheme at GC&Q since the commission refused to disclose the results of its contacts with the United States. The director of GC&Q, Mr Peter Marychurch, also refused to give evidence to the committee and said that there were no trained polygraph testers there.



Mr Leighton: "Highest common denominator"

The committee reserves its strongest criticism for pre-employment lie detector tests. It also sharply criticised a number of Polygraph Security Services (PSS) in a British subsidiary of an American firm, for refusing to give evidence.

The committee's report says it deplores the unco-operative attitude of the company. Mr Jeremy Barrett, the company's London director, replied yesterday that the committee "was wandering to the unions because of the GC&Q situation." Pre-employment polygraph screening, he said, had been successful in the United States and had helped solve crimes. He declined to say how many clients the company had in Britain.

The implications for industrial relations and employment of the introduction of the Polygraph House of Commons Employment Committee Stationery Office, £1.75p.

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Applications, together with curriculum vitae and three references, should be sent to: Dr P. M. Robinson, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S1 1JD.

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Natients capture by leafhoppers

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University of Bradford

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP IN QUEUING THEORY

Applications are invited for the post of Research Assistantship in the above project. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of the ion implantation system. The post is for a full-time position for a period of 12 months. The salary will be in the range £7,500 to £9,500 per annum. The successful candidate should have a degree in Mathematics or Computer Science and experience of queueing theory research. The post is open to both men and women.

Applications, together with curriculum vitae and three references, should be sent to: Dr P. M. Robinson, Department of Mathematics, University of Bradford, Bradford BD9 4JT.

Alternatively, informal enquiries can be made to Dr P. M. Robinson, Tel 01274 345555, ext. 14433. Closing date: 15/3/85.

Applications are invited for the post of Research Assistant in the above project. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of the ion implantation system. The post is for a full-time position for a period of 12 months. The salary will be in the range £7,500 to £9,500 per annum. The successful candidate should have a degree in Physics or Electronics and experience of ion implantation. The post is open to both men and women.

Applications, together with curriculum vitae and three references, should be sent to: Dr P. M. Robinson, Department of Physics, University of Bradford, Bradford BD9 4JT.

Alternatively, informal enquiries can be made to Dr P. M. Robinson, Tel 01274 345555, ext. 14433. Closing date: 15/3/85.

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As with any sales/marketing led organisation, the need for accurate research is vital and GTE is no exception.

We are now seeking an individual, probably aged 22+, with qualifications to graduate or HND level to fill a newly created position of Marketing Analyst. Based at our Slough head office, the successful candidate, male or female, will be working in the marketing department — a highly enterprising and creative environment — and will be expected to make a significant contribution to the team.

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A good negotiable salary is offered plus excellent company benefits and the opportunity of an interesting and challenging career.

For more details please contact Andrea Turner, Personnel Officer, on Slough (0753) 77707 or write to her at GTE Directors Ltd, Director House, Slough Place, Slough, Berks SL1 1NQ.

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The Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) recruits personnel for positions in the following African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Madagascar.



MOZAMBIQUE

Within the framework of the Norwegian development assistance to Mozambique, NORAD has been requested to provide technical assistance to the shipping administration. This assistance is administered by the Ministry of Railways, Ports and Merchant Navy.

The following vacancy is now to be filled:

Adviser - Hydrographer

(project code MOZ 039)

NORAD is going to start a project aiming at establishing and developing a Hydrographic Division in Mozambique, over a 5-year period, thus enabling the country to make surveys of the port facilities and distribute the results to the authorities concerned.

Duties:

The Hydrographer will join the Hydrographic Division and work directly under the supervision of the Director. His/her duties will include the following:

- Supervision and monitoring of the project;
- Selection and purchase of equipment;
- Offer advice on the personnel requirements at the Hydrographic Division;
- Give recommendations as to further training of personnel;
- Ensure that the hydrographic work is in accordance with international standards.

Qualifications:

Degree in hydrography. Extensive professional experience. A thorough knowledge of the various tasks dealt with in a hydrographic division. Administrative experience is required.

Duty station: Maputo.

Language:

Portuguese/ English. Language training will be given.

Duration: Two years.

Date required: According to agreement.

Basic salary: £ 18918 or £ 20528. The salary is subject to taxation in Norway. In addition an installation grant, overseas and family allowances will be paid.

Closing date: March 15.

Application forms and further information regarding salary, allowances housing, school facilities etc. may be obtained from the Personnel Division, Ms. Kjersti Berre, tel. 47-231 45 24 or 31 45 50.

NORAD

Personnel Division
P.B. 8142-Dep.
0033 Oslo 1
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Tel. 31 40 55



TECHNICAL TRANSLATOR

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The Central Electricity Generating Board is responsible for the generation and main transmission of electricity in England and Wales. The nature of its work involves membership of a number of international technical bodies.

A Technical Translator is required to join a team engaged in translating and editing technical documents into English, mainly of technical papers and in addition correspondence and committee minutes etc.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent with French or German as principal subject. They should preferably have experience as a technical translator in industry, but those who have completed a post-graduate course in technical translating will also be considered. Knowledge of other languages could be useful but the main requirement is good performance in translating difficult technical material from French or German into English.

There may be an occasional opportunity for interpreting or telephone work but this will not be a regular feature of the job.

Applications in writing only giving full relevant details including age and current salary to the Group Personnel Officer, CEGB, Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AU not later than 28 February 1985. Quote Reference 44/85/JBB/ITG. The CEGB is an equal opportunity employer.

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We are seeking a person, preferably with a relevant professional qualification, to oversee our Finance Department. The successful candidate will have experience of computerised accounts systems and be willing to supervise up to 20 staff.

For application forms - contact Michael Kennedy, Head of Management Services, Association of Scientific, Technical & Managerial Staffs, 79 Camden Road, London NW1 9ES. Closing date: Friday, 1st March, 1985.

ANALYST PROGRAMMER

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The Company: A major international Health Care organisation developing in-house application software.

The Position: Analyst/Programmer to specify and assist in the continued development of Series 1 applications using COBOL. He/she will further assist in the development and application of flexible solutions to information needs based on the IBM PC.

You will be young, dynamic, with considerable experience in COBOL and with Series 1 in particular. You will have knowledge of hospitals and the health care market and experience in commercial applications using the IBM PC.

Apply in writing to Colin Murray Brown, PSI Ltd, 53 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middlesex, or Tel 01-903 9511.

NUMERICAL ALGORITHMS GROUP (NAG) Technical/Computing Posts

To meet the growing demand for its numerical and statistical software services, NAG intends to make the following appointments in its Central Office in Oxford.

COMPUTING MANAGER

Will assume responsibility for the management of Central Office computing resources which now include a VAX 11/750, over 40 terminals and personal computers, several work stations, and network access to remote systems. The post requires a versatile, capable person with a sound academic background and experience of computer systems management (preferably VAX/VMS). Salary scales IB/IX/III.

COMPUTATIONAL STATISTICIAN

with a strong interest in software is required to develop the statistical chapters of the NAG Library and, in the longer term, to provide computational modules for inclusion in advanced statistical systems. Applicants should have a PhD or MSc in statistics and extensive experience in statistical computing. Salary scales IA/II.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMMER

will implement NAG software products on a wide variety of computers. The successful candidate is likely to be a competent Fortran programmer with a background in scientific computation, and experience of handling large volumes of software on different systems. From time to time the tasks undertaken may involve working away from Oxford for short periods. Salary scales IB/IA.

STATISTICAL PACKAGES PROGRAMMER

will support NAG's Genstat statistical package service by handling user enquiries and orders, pursuing bug reports, and implementing the package on various systems. The post requires a sound knowledge of Fortran and an appreciation of the various tasks involved in providing an effective package service. Prior Genstat experience will be a distinct advantage but candidates with a general statistical package background may apply. Salary scales IB/IA.

VECTOR ALGORITHMS CO-ORDINATOR

will help to develop the NAG Library with a particular emphasis on algorithms for vector processors (Cray-1, Cyber 205 etc). The post will suit a numerical analyst preferably with a PhD or MSc in a relevant subject, a strong interest in numerical software and a thorough knowledge of Fortran. Salary scale IA.

The following Research staff Academic-related salary scales apply to the above posts: IB (£8,600-£10,330), IA (£7,520-£12,150), II (£11,205-£14,925), IIX (£11,675-£15,930), III (£14,135-£17,705).

For further details please contact:

The Administrator
The Numerical Algorithms Group Ltd
NAG Central Office
265 Banbury Road
OXFORD OX2 7DE
Tel (0865) 511245

Closing date for applications: 8th March, 1985.



GLC

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Analytical Scientists

Scientists with relevant, analytical experience and an appropriate degree or equivalent are sought to provide a monitoring/analytical service in two key areas of waste disposal.

Work is undertaken with minimal supervision and demands sound knowledge of both chemical and instrumental methods of analysis, together with the ability to communicate effectively on technical matters.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Monitoring

To join a laboratory team providing specialist advice on a wide range of environmental pollution matters relating to hazardous waste disposal.

Responsibilities include the regular sampling and analysis of materials; assessment of air and noise emissions; interpretation of results and preparation of draft reports. Site work, using mobile laboratories, is an important feature of the work and a current driving licence is essential. Ref: 5312.

Edmonton Incinerator

To join a small on-site group providing scientific services relating to water treatment, demineralisation and pressure steam generating plant. Work covers the chemical analysis of water, refuse sample gas and flue gas emissions; interpretation of results; advising on remedial action; and supervising fault-finding operations. Ref: 5312.

Salaries: £9,255 - £11,325 inclusive.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

For an application form, to be returned by 8th March 1985, write to: GLC Director-General's Department, Room 203, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 2390. Please quote appropriate reference.

These posts are suitable for job sharing.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POST

Physicists and Electrical Engineers with a PhD or equivalent research experience are invited to apply for two posts:

- (i) As RA to the Professor of electrical Engineering assessing the feasibility of new components, based on acoustic and optic waves, with sensing and signal processing applications. This Departmental post is for a period of three years. Salary will be in the range of £7,520 to £10,330.
- (ii) To work on optical components and displays formed by optical volume holography. The post is supported by SERC for four years. Salary will be in the range £7,520 to £8,920.

For both posts applications, together with a curriculum vitae and names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to Professor E. G. S. Paige, Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ, from whom further particulars are available. The closing date of the application is March 8th, 1985.

For further information please telephone Roger Marley, Personnel Manager, on (08294) 6941. Alternatively, write to him enclosing a full C.V. at Ureenco Ltd, 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2NL.

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A well-established and progressive company, Ureenco provides highly specialised marketing and allied services in the field of uranium.

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The installation is a Prime 550 II with bespoke programs covering both project and in-house requirements.

The position reports directly to the Computer Manager and your role will be to write new programs (in PL1, Fortran and Basic) as well as to maintain and update existing ones.

As you will be liaising closely with users, good communications skills are essential as are a numerate degree and at least one year's experience of PL1 programming. Mature and flexible in your approach, you will also need plenty of initiative and should enjoy operating independently.

Salary will depend on experience and will be supported by good fringe benefits including relocation assistance if appropriate.

For further information please telephone Roger Marley, Personnel Manager, on (08294) 6941. Alternatively, write to him enclosing a full C.V. at Ureenco Ltd, 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2NL.

Ureenco Ltd, 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2NL.

CORPORATE PLANNING ANALYST

c. £12,000

We have a vacancy for an experienced Planning Analyst within the Central Planning Section of BACS (Bankers' Automated Clearing Services Limited) which operates a fast-growing and evolving Electronic Funds Transfer service on behalf of the UK Banking industry.

The successful candidate, on joining an established planning function at BACS, Edgware, will be involved in a range of activities in support of the Company's formal planning processes. There will be participation in the preparation of the Company's Five Year Plan and its annual Budget, and the monitoring of progress against planned objectives by reviewing the status of various activities at regular intervals. The scope of this position offers a variety of tasks which will give an insight into the workings of the world's largest, successful EFT service.

Candidates, who will be graduates or possessing an equivalent qualification in Business Studies, will offer at least three years experience in a corporate planning activity. Knowledge of data processing systems and financial planning is necessary.

Salary offered is circa £12,000 per annum and a full range of benefits apply, which will include relocation expenses where necessary, profit sharing, house purchase loan scheme (after qualifying period) and a non-contributory pension and life insurance scheme etc.

Please apply with full details to:

Mrs R. Sidders, BACS Limited, De Havilland Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 5QA. Tel: 01-952 2333.



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
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AND DEVELOPMENT
PARIS

APPLICATIONS PROJECT LEADER

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has an opening in the Data Processing Division for a senior systems project leader. The Division provides processing services to the Agency on an IBM 4381 computer system running under the VM operating system with extensive use of an in-house developed cross sectional database management system programmed in APL.

The successful candidate will have:

- expert level APL programming skills;
- proven project management experience;
- a degree in computer science or other related discipline; and
- at least three years data processing experience in an interactive computer environment.

A very attractive salary and benefit package is offered. Salary may include allowances for expatriation, home leave and education. The appointment, open equally to both male and female candidates, will be for an initial period of three years. The work is based in Paris but occasional travel may be necessary.

Applicants must be nationals of an OECD country, possess fluency in one of the official languages (English and French) and a working knowledge of the other. Suitably qualified candidates are invited to send their CV to:

Head of Personnel, OECD, 2, rue André Pascal
75775 Paris cedex 16,
marked DPD/IEA (GUA).



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

£5,922 / £6,420

The post within the Chief Executive's Support Unit involves providing technical administrative support for the Programme Co-ordinator mainly in the operation of computer-based information, financial and programming systems. Applicants should have a knowledge of computer applications and a good level of general technical ability. Formal qualifications are not essential but the post may suit a graduate who wishes to obtain experience in Public Administration. Informal inquiries can be made to Ewen Boucher on Ext. 479.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU (Tel: 22311, Extns. 557 and 6105), to whom same should be returned by 7th March. Trade Union Membership is a condition of service. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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The salary is £10,000 on a one year contract. For informal enquiries or an application form and job description please contact:

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Applications are invited from Electronics Engineers to contribute original ideas to the solution of measurement problems. The successful candidate will face the challenge of translating theoretical designs into products able to withstand the severe environment of the operating divisions of British Gas.

Experience in analogue and digital circuit design is required, together with a sound knowledge of Physics. Additional experience in the application of microprocessors would be an advantage.

There will be considerable scope for independent action in this appointment, and candidates will be expected to possess the initiative to take advantage of the opportunities.

The minimum educational requirement is an Honours Degree in Physics or Electronic Engineering, and membership of an appropriate professional institution is desirable.

Salary will be in the range £10,119 to £11,645. Benefits are those normally associated with a large progressive organisation.

Please telephone or write for an application form, quoting reference EKS/430/G, to: Senior Personnel Officer, British Gas, Engineering Research Station, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1UH.

Tel: Tyneside (091) 2684828 ext. 160.

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A senior position for which experience in office management, committee work, accountancy and investment procedure is essential. A background knowledge of Friendly Society administration would be an advantage.


Commencing salary subject to negotiation, according to age and experience, c £12,000 per annum. Car provided. Superannuated. Maximum age: under 48 years.

Application forms (returnable by 6th March, 1985) with further details from Mr J.B. Launchbury, 29 Shirley Road, Southampton SO1 3EW.




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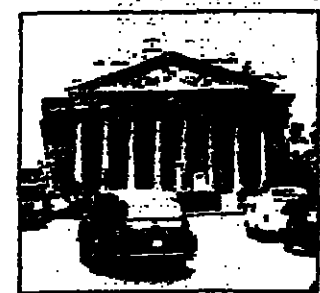


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Volcker might just be talking tough to allow room to move softly later



NOTEBOOK

Peter Rodgers

PAUL VOLCKER, the US Federal Reserve chairman, has come up with 20 surprises in his testimony to the Senate banking committee, and in many ways that is the best thing to expect from a leader of the most

powerful monetary authority in the world. The markets immediately pushed the dollar up and US bonds down in the expectation of firm interest rates. But apart from some minor adjustments to the money supply growth targets — tightening the narrow measure and loosening slightly the two broad measures — there was very little new in what he said, to justify the sharp reaction.

If on balance there is a slight tightening of monetary policy, it comes with the market suspicion that the easing last autumn, to reduce interest rates, is now over. But was it right to call it an easing in the first place? Historically high interest rates and a steadily appreciating dollar are not the sign of any form of monetary laxity, nor are there any indications from the US economy that inflationary pressure is seriously rising. It may be of course, that Mr Volcker is

exercising the central banker's prerogative of talking tough in order to make it easier to act soft, in which case there are few people on this side of the Atlantic who would be prepared to argue with him. He is, in fact, keeping his options open.

Even if there were a large shift of policy, Volcker can hardly push up interest rates very much given his obvious concern with the light of the dollar, because this would make the problem worse still. Perhaps the market's reaction had more to do with his harsh remarks, yet again, about the size of the US budget deficit, which are a reminder of how difficult it actually will be to get interest rates down in the near future.

Discount doubt

"WE HAVE never in our history talked to this press."

said Mr D. G. Campion, chairman of the City's smallest discount house, Seccombe Marshall & Campion. This statement is interesting not because the firm is being snooty but because it accurately reflects its enormously privileged position as the Bank of England's broker in the bill markets, at the heart of the system which the Government uses to regulate interest rates.

The City would hardly expect such chaps to talk to newspapers when they have access to sensitive information about the Bank of England's daily dealings.

But yesterday Seccombe announced that it was in discussions which could lead to an offer for all its shares which after a 55p rise to 375p last night valued the company at £8 million. Small beer, but intriguing for two reasons. The discount houses are part of the monetary control system, acting as an interface between the Bank

of England and the banking system, and so they have an importance that belies their size.

The bid for Seccombe also highlights what has been clear for some time now, that there is unlikely to be room for the smaller discount houses which are almost certain to be absorbed or disappear over the next few years.

In fact, the whole discount market's days are numbered, and the bigger houses clearly realise it. Only exists because the Bank of England likes the convenience of having a buffer between itself and the bill clearing banks, so it does not have to have an argument with them over interest rates every day.

The larger discount houses such as Union and Gerrard & National, are already planning to leave the barriers and become primary dealers in gilt edged stock. In spite of the Bank of England's recent

reaffirmation of its support for a separate discount market, even Bank officials appear to accept that eventually it will merge with the gilts market. The distinction between dealing in gilts and bills is very artificial, and once the market becomes one it is difficult to see room for the smaller undercapitalised discount houses.

It had been assumed that Seccombe's relationship with the Bank guaranteed it an independent niche, but even this may not be enough. If ownership does change, the Bank will probably re-examine whether to continue financing all its business through Seccombe, in the light of who becomes its new owner.

No change

JUST WHEN Mr Alastair Morton, chairman of

Guinness Peat, believed that the company's founder, Lord Kinnaird, had bowed out, he got a sharp reminder of the former chairman's persistence. Shareholders met yesterday to vote on Mr Morton's proposal to change the name from Guinness Peat to Guinness Mahon, but the board was flabbergasted to find the innocuous motion overturned by a block of votes belonging to Lord Kinnaird and his allies.

A name change is hardly a contentious issue, and like a boring by-election only 46.8 per cent of the shares were voted at all. But Lord Kinnaird's 10 per cent and 9.45 per cent held by a firm called ICG Chemicals (These shares were represented at the meeting by the same firm of solicitors.) A 75 per cent majority is needed to change the name and as Mr Morton mustered only 57.5 per cent of

the votes actually cast, the motion failed. Why Lord Kinnaird should do this is unclear. Perhaps he wants to maintain the Peat name, because Guinness Peat grew by acquisition from his original firm of Lewis & Peat. Mr Morton wanted to get away from the memory of the bitter rows at Guinness Peat which involved Lord Kinnaird, by changing the name to that of its merchant banking subsidiary.

Mr Morton is expected to try again to change the name some time, but another much more important issue looms next month: an extraordinary general meeting to approve the planned purchase of a big stake in Britannia Arrow, the unit trust group, which Mr Morton, he has only got to get just over 50 per cent of the votes to win that one — and there will surely be a fierce battle as friendly fund managers to vote for him.

BBC happy with £18 million rescue deal

Olivetti takes near half stake in Acorn

By Peter Large and Maggie Brown

Olivetti of Italy is taking a 49.3 per cent stake in Acorn, the microcomputer company which has supplied the bulk of the computers in Britain's schools.

The rescue deal also draws on Acorn's bankers, Barclays, and unpaid creditors to produce a total cash injection of £18 million. Olivetti has option to raise its holding later to a controlling 50.1 per cent.

Acorn made a loss of £10.9 million in the last six months of 1984, mainly because sales of its new home computer did not grab the expected share of the price-cutting pre-Christmas rush.

In the reorganisation of Acorn into four divisions, announced yesterday, Dr Alex Reid, the temporary chief executive brought in three weeks ago, becomes chairman, and there will be about 90 more redundancies among the 420 staff (30 were sacked two weeks ago).

Dr Reid said yesterday that he had talked to several British firms, but some of those possible deals would have meant absorption. A key advantage of the Olivetti answer was that Acorn kept its independence. He mentioned the better export prospects raised by Olivetti's office equipment marketing outlets and the quarter stake in the American giant AT & T.

The BBC, whose new three-year contract with Acorn for computer development for the education and home markets is not affected, expressed delight at "this good solution". Although there are around 150,000 BBC-Acorn computers in the schools — bought with central government subsidy — the Government did not intervene in the going-on of the deal.

Dr Reid said yesterday that he had talked to several British firms, but some of



Alex Reid

puter company IC, got caught in a slump, was not even contemptible. Olivetti is subscribing £10.4 million of the new cash, with shareholders being asked to provide £1.7 million. Two Olivetti directors will join the Acorn board. Barclays is doubling its loan facilities to £12 million, and Acorn's unpaid creditors are being asked to accept staged repayments, plus "substantial interest" over the coming 12 months.

The biggest, A.B. Electronics, which assembles Acorn machines, has already agreed.

The refinancing route chosen by Acorn's new advisers, Close Brothers, who replaced Lazards, is a rights issue, providing 27 new shares per 20 existing ones. The price is 8p a share, compared with Acorn's price of 28p before being suspended from dealings, and its high point a year ago of 193p. Dr Hauser, and Mr Curry are waiving their rights to subscribe in favour of Olivetti.

Acorn's half-year loss of £10.9 million was on a turnover of £54.8 million, up from £40.4 million. Some £7 million of the loss is the cost of reducing the value of unsold computers, cancelling orders, and making refunds to the trade because of forced cuts. Another £2 million is due to trading losses in the United States principally, and West Germany. The third outgoing is bank interest payments of £1.9 million.

Lead comment, page 12; Olivetti's strategy, page 22.

CBI urges EMS entry

By David Simpson

THE LOUDEST call to date for the UK to join the European Monetary System came yesterday from British industry which is to press for immediate membership of the Exchange Control mechanism.

An overwhelming majority of the council of the Confederation of British Industry voted for British participation in the EMS in its previous stance.

The reason behind the change in attitude appears to be the CBI's growing belief that some external control must now be expected to put a block on the wild fluctuations in the value of sterling.

At the time, the CBI has now dismissed the argument that membership of the EMS could lead to high interest rates as UK real interest rates are already at a post-war peak.

Whether the Government will take heed of British industry's appeal remains doubtful. Both the Prime Minister and the Treasury are opposed to the UK's joining the EMS, and only last week, Treasury Minister, Iain Stewart, expressed his warm enthusiasm for the system in a reply to a parliamentary question.

CBI president, Sir James Cresswell, expressed confidence, however, of a favourable government response to the Confederation's change of heart. The last time the CBI debated the EMS, in October 1983, it was opposed to membership.

"We will press the Chancellor very hard after the budget speeches," Sir James said.

It was politically important, as well as economically important, for the UK to join the EMS, Sir James said. "The economic situation has changed," he added. "This is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate our commitment and to provide the leadership we believe we can give towards achieving a united Europe."

Exchange rate stability, the CBI President emphasised, was more important than the actual value of the pound, and could be achieved through membership of a wider exchange control system.

Trafalgar plans spending spree

By Andrew Cornelius

Trafalgar House, the shipping and construction group headed by Sir Nigel Brookes, yesterday announced a £175 million rights issue which will help fund a planned investment and takeover spending spree.

News of the one-for-five rights issue at 315p per share was accompanied by an unexpected £37.2 million takeover bid for Haden, the lift and air conditioning equipment group, where Trafalgar has built a 4.99 per cent share stake.

Trafalgar also confirmed that it is competing with GEC for the £37.2 million takeover of the Varrow naval shipyard on Clyde, which is being privatised by the Government, and early success in its oil and gas exploration programme in the southern part of the North Sea.

Trafalgar will use the cash

injection to help fund a planned £250 million investment programme this year, including a £100 million investment in UK and US oil and gas exploration and development.

But with £250 million of unused borrowing facilities and a gearing which will now fall to the "low teens" Trafalgar is still actively seeking acquisitions which fit its existing portfolio. Eric Parker, chief executive, hinted that the US property market was one possible target. Trafalgar is also interested in bidding for the Vickers naval shipyards when they are put out to tender next month.

Haden immediately dubbed Trafalgar's takeover bid as "opportunistic, totally uninvited, and unwelcome." Philip Ling, Haden's managing director, described Trafalgar's bid as "a dart because it failed to take account of the fact that

much of Haden's business stemmed from the fact that it was independent of any construction group.

"I think they have got some sort of dream about putting together some sort of soup to pudding construction group and that it is not the way the industry works."

Trafalgar insisted that its existing businesses are "a neat fit" with Haden.

Haden's businesses are complementary to Trafalgar's existing mechanical and electrical engineering businesses operated through Young, Austen & Young, Rasleigh Phipps Electrical and RDL, Trafalgar said.

On the stock market news of the rights issue and bid forced down Trafalgar's shares by 12p to 356p. Haden shares rose by 54p to 288p in anticipation of a fierce takeover battle.

Trafalgar's projected £2 billion turnover this year will leap

by a further £300 million if the bids for Yarrow and Haden succeed. The shape of the group could be further influenced by the group's involvement in the EuroRoute consortium which is planning to build a cross-channel link, the award of a \$500 million contract to build a second Bosporus bridge in Turkey, and the outcome of discussions with P&O on the rationalisation of the two group's shipping interests.

Sir Nigel said that Trafalgar's half-year figures for March 31 (due to be published in May) "will be good." He forecast an increased interim dividend of 5.4p per share, against 4.7p paid at the comparable stage last year. He said that prospects for the full year are "encouraging" and that the oil and gas operations will become increasingly important long term as the group's exploration programme bears fruit.

Red faces over error in job figures

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

A "technical error" has caused the government to overestimate the number of people with jobs in Britain by between 36,000 and 185,000 over the last three years, the Department of Employment admitted yesterday.

The discovery of the error will be highly embarrassing to ministers who have repeatedly pointed to the employment figures amid much opposition to a more optimistic indicator of economic conditions than inexorably rising unemployment.

The corrected employment figures released yesterday show that the number of jobs has been consistently over-recorded since September, 1981. The gap with what are

figures was at its widest in now estimated as the "true" March, 1982, before closing gently to leave the corrected figures 36,000 below the old ones in September last year. The new September total shows 23.49 millions in work.

Because the gap has been closing, the growth of jobs since March, 1982, was understated by the old figures, a point which Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, attempted to highlight in a statement yesterday. In the year to September, 1984, the employed labour force is now estimated to have risen by 342,000 compared with the earlier estimate of 226,000.

The new figures lend substance to claims of a "pin money recovery," since 207,000 of the 342,000 apparent increase in jobs over the year to last September was for part-time women. Full-time women accounted for 54,000 extra jobs, and men for 81,000.

The statistics also underline the extent to which the new jobs are being taken by people who were previously excluded from the government's measure of unemployment, defined as those who claim benefit. Many married women are not usually entitled to welfare payments.

The 342,000 increase in jobs went side by side with an increase of 113,000 in unemployment, suggesting an expansion of the labour force of 455,000. Yet the population of working age is estimated to have risen by only 200,000 in 1984. The implication is that about a quarter of a million people

have either begun to look for work, or were already looking for it but were not counted as unemployed.

The error in the old figures arose because people who did not respond to the Labour Force Survey 80,000 households were assumed by the take to be working. In addition, the figures have been revised to take account of recent changes in the Census Office's population projections, sample to gross up the whole economy. (The likely error in this process is 80,000 either way.)

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Volcker's target for monetary growth

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The Federal Reserve chairman, Mr Paul Volcker, told Congress yesterday that he would not be surprised if the dollar rose in an initial response to a cut in the US budget deficit as it would increase confidence abroad in American financial stability.

But over the longer haul a cut in the deficit would reduce the value of the dollar as it would lead to lower US interest rates and make the US capital markets less dependent on foreign financing. He noted that the recent rise in the dollar, in the face of falling interest rates, was in conflict with the usual laws of economics.

He gave no indication that he expected interest rates to rise as a result of monetary policy. The new targets for monetary growth announced yesterday were, if anything, a little tighter than before, but Mr Volcker appeared unperturbed by recent monetary figures showing the rise in the money supply to be above the ceilings set by the policy-making Open Markets Committee.

The dollar hardened against yesterday against all major currencies as foreign exchange dealers took Mr Volcker's statement as confirmation that there will not be any quick move to curb the dollar's strength.

Most market dealers had already anticipated Mr Volcker's negative stance and there was little effect on the dollar which remained thin and nervous on fears of European central bank intervention.

Sterling firmed slightly during the day but lost half a point at \$1.0875 by the close. It gained a phenom against the DM but finished unchanged at 3.6226 and the effective index dipped 0.2 at 71.4.

The new targets unveiled yesterday show the narrow range of the money supply growing in the range of 4 per cent to 7 per cent, the same rate as mid-year. This most closely watched version of the money supply includes bank deposits and currency (including those paying interest) together with notes and coins in circulation.

Mr Volcker announced that the ranges had been raised for the wider version of the money supply which includes savings and high interest money market accounts on which it is possible to write cheques. The ranges for M-2 will be 6 to 9 per cent for 1985, 8 to 9.5 per cent for M-3, and 12 per cent for the widest measure of money known as domestic non-financial debt. But despite this numerical increase there would be a more cautious approach to money figures in the months ahead.

Mr Volcker said that the higher target ranges for the wider version of the money supply would be more in line with the level of income growth in 1985. Indeed, much of Mr Volcker's analysis of the monetary targets yesterday was a view that credit should not be a constricting factor on economic growth.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saving silicon

THE FIRST purpose-built facility in Europe for the recycling of silicon, the source of the microchip, is to be built in the UK by Micro-Image Technology, a subsidiary of Laporte, at Riddings, Derby.

Significant cost savings are available to chip manufacturers by stripping and repolishing the silicon wafers rejected at the various stages of manufacture of microchips. The £1 million plant will employ 13 people initially.

COMMITTEE proceedings against the chairman of Leyland Vehicles, Mr Ronald Hancock, were adjourned by Guildhall Magistrates yesterday until March 6. Mr Hancock faces one summons alleging that he disclosed unpublished information relating to takeover shares in January 1981. He was remanded on unconditional bail.

WATERFORD, the Irish glass group, yesterday announced record pre-tax profits of £12.4 million for 1984 — a rise of 43.7 per cent on the previous year. The profit rise stems from an overhaul of Waterford's crystal and china distribution, particularly to the important overseas markets.

Southern North Sea gas cluster emerges

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

Evidence is beginning to emerge that there is a hitherto unknown cluster of gas fields in the southern North Sea. The fields are situated about 100 miles off the Yorkshire coast.

The latest announcement of a find in the area was made yesterday by the Gas Exploration, said that it has discovered a promising amount of gas at 10,000 feet in a block which it operates and in which it has a 34 per cent holding.

There is known to be another reservoir of gas nearby, lying at between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. It was discovered by BP when it held the block, but the company decided the find was not commercially exploitable and relinquished its licence.

The find announced yesterday holds out the possibility

Minister warns on productivity

By our Economics Editor

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, said yesterday that it was imperative that we improve our competitiveness by following a further sustained increase in manufacturing industries' wage costs.

He was commenting on new figures from the Department of Employment which reinforce evidence that industry pressures are once again rising through the economy.

Though the underlying in-

crease in average earnings is put at 7.1 per cent over the year to December, the same as every month since July, a fall-off in the growth of output per person—productivity—has led to a sharp rise in unit wage costs.

The rise in manufacturers' unit wage costs in the year to the fourth quarter is put at 5.6 per cent compared with an average rise of 4 per cent in 1984, and only 1.6 per cent in 1983.

The main reason is a sharp

slowdown in productivity growth from 7.3 per cent in 1983 to 4.5 per cent in 1984, and only 2.6 per cent in the year to the fourth quarter.

Companies are thus less able to absorb the steady rate of earnings rises. Higher factory gate prices are also being fed by rising raw material and fuel costs due to the fall in the pound. The level of pay settlements also seems to be creeping upwards in this pay round, though this is yet to be reflected in the earnings

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BET in new bid for Initial after all-clear

By Mary Brasier

BET is making a second attempt to clinch control of laundry group Initial Services after gaining the all-clear for its offer from the Monopolies Commission.

The group yesterday launched a new bid for the 57.8 per cent of Initial it does not already own with cash and share terms that are barely changed since the original bid last summer.

The takeover was blocked by the Monopolies Commission, which yesterday published its conclusion that the merger would not operate against the public interest despite BET's existing ownership of another laundry group, Advance.

The MMC report added that the acquisition would "crystallise an already high degree of concentration and augment the market share

of the leading supplier whose strong position in the market would in our view be enhanced by its ability to distribute three products (workwear, cabinet towels and dust mops) together.

BET said that the decision cleared the way for the last major step in BET's reorganisation. We anticipate considerable benefits from owning 100 per cent of both Initial and Advance."

The Initial board, which recommended BET's earlier bid equivalent to 54p per Initial share, was still discussing the new terms yesterday.

BET defended the new price tag on Initial by saying that a premium was already built into the Initial share price, which rose 1p to 52p in the stock market yesterday.

"There is no need to up our bid, it is a fair offer and pitched just right,"

De Lorean creditors win ruling

A judge in Detroit yesterday ordered that creditors of John De Lorean's defunct sports car company, who are pressing damages of \$100 million, be given access to 60 cartons of documents seized from one of his houses.

The biggest creditor is the British Government which is pushing for at least £77 million compensation after investing in a De Lorean plant in Northern Ireland.

In addition, the UK Government last Friday issued writs in a New York court claiming damages of £245 million from the accountancy firm, Arthur Andersen, which acted as auditor to the De Lorean Motor Company during the period it received development grants worth £77 million.

De Lorean was acquitted last August on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine to raise money that would help save his failing car company.

He was arrested in 1982. The documents were seized the following year.

Judge Ray Reynolds Graves ruled that "sanctions" be imposed against De Lorean for his attempt to keep the documents from creditors, which a lawyer for the trustee overseeing the De Lorean Motor Company's liquidation said could amount to as much as \$20,000.

Graves described as a "smokescreen" attempts by De Lorean to keep the confiscated documents from the bankruptcy trustee and creditors.

— Reuters.

Opec encouragement

By our Energy Correspondent

The oil business was yesterday treated to the unusual spectacle of a senior executive from one of the major multinational oil companies expressing more optimism about Opec's chances of propelling up the price than the cartel's own president.

In a speech delivered in London, Mr John Ralsman, the chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, said that "of Opec seems to have been successful in reducing its production to below the prevailing level of world demand, and if they can sustain this self-discipline for some months there is a fair prospect of prices hold-

ing at or about their present level."

Earlier in the week, in previously unpublished evidence to the Indonesian Parliament's economic affairs commission, Dr Suburono, the minister of mines and energy and Opec's current president, warned that a further fall in the price was "not impossible."

Mr Ralsman said that even if oil prices fell by "two or three dollars a barrel in the short term we must remember that the day will almost inevitably come when they will begin to rise again as non-Opec production starts to decline."

BT buys American phone exchanges

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is buying American to the tune of about £20 million for nine new phone exchanges.

The contract is going jointly to AT & T and the Dutch group Philips, which yesterday announced that it was to be expanded with the aim of becoming the "second supplier" of telecommunications equipment across Western Europe.

AT & T expounded the

theory that as the rest of Europe follows Britain's example in removing the state monopoly on telecommunications, AT & T's exchange technology, in partnership with Philips, can take a second slice to the native supplier in each country.

BT's purchase is of exchange equipment from AT & T adapted for British use by Philips. They will run a "Linkline" service which will allow firms which get much of their business from incoming phone calls to pay for those calls automatically.

BT said yesterday that the deal in no way affected its decision to evaluate computerised phone exchanges from a number of overseas suppliers and it repeated that the British version of System X will remain the main new exchange model for the UK network.

But it added that the software for the local exchange version of System X was still to be finally tested "nearly a year later." Once these tests are complete 10 local System X exchanges should come into use quickly, with around 100 more during the year.

Mr Eric Clark, head of the telecommunications side of Plessey, the lead System X contractor, said later that the tests by Plessey were totally completed by last week and the first exchange should be in action in a fortnight. The total delay was in fact about six months.

Exchanges could have been in use months ago, he said, but they had decided on a "vestibule testing" for any software "bugs"—including pulling out circuit boards and immense overloading of the exchanges.

Jump in Fleet shares

By our Financial Staff

Shares in Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily and Sunday Express jumped 18p yesterday, to close at 255p, reflecting the market's conviction that a bid for the company is about to emerge.

The expectation is that United Newspapers, which has built up a 20 per cent share stake in now on the verge of acting, because of Fleet's intentions to mount a friendly takeover bid in Fleet shares for small shareholder services group, Aitken Hume, reducing United's strategic stake.

But there was also a rumour abroad in the City that United had agreed to sell on its stake to another potential bidder, with whom it could perhaps strike an agreement to purchase the Morgan Grampian magazine wing of Fleet. However one possible candidate to purchase the stake, the John Fairfax Australian group counted itself out last night.

Meanwhile Lazard's merchant bank, acting for Aitken Hume, said last night that there had been no material change since Monday evening's statement that Fleet and Aitken Hume were looking at possible "mutual association."

Cons Gold shows the acceptable face of big business

Andrew Cornelius
on a mining
group's new plan
to safeguard the
environment

CONSOLIDATED Goldfields, the UK mining and aggregates group, spends a great deal of its time digging holes in the ground, both at home and abroad. Its Amey Roadstone subsidiary is one of the biggest extractors and processors of crushed rock in this country, and recently increased its considerable reserves with the £61 million takeover of Bath and Portland in the West Country aggregates group.

Elsewhere, ConsGold is better known for its mining investments, which include a 48 per cent stake in Gold Fields of South Africa, which has some of the best quality gold deposits in the

world, a half share in Renison Goldfields in Australia, and 26 per cent of Newmont Mining in the United States.

This puts the group at the sharp end of the environmental debate in four continents, not to mention the controversy which surrounds any investment by big business in South Africa. It also makes it easy for cynics to question ConsGold's motives in announcing yesterday a big new initiative which will increase the group's charitable spending overnight from £100,000 to £500,000 a year.

Mr Rudolph Agnew, chairman of ConsGold for the past two years and an employee of the group for 25 years before that, accepts that his motives will be suspected.

But he insists that ConsGold's commitment to spend 1 per cent of its annual dividend (£500,000 this year) on the newly formed Environment Trust, and an ultimate intention of

increasing spending to 1 per cent of net profit (£1.4 million on the latest year's figures) reflects genuine concern for the environment and people.

He believes that protest groups, including anti-spill groups, could get a lot more out of companies by preying on their guilt. But the arguments from the protesters must be constructive, he says.

"If all an action group wants to do is stop things happening then it is not going to get help from anyone. But there are a lot of people who could help if there is not a troublesome element in the action group."

"This is particularly relevant to South Africa because we are on the side of the do-gooders. We are not on the side of those who want a bloody revolution and there are a lot of white radicals in that camp."

ConsGold sees the trust as the forerunner of similar initiatives in South Africa and Australia. But in South Af-

rica the initiatives would concentrate on education and training, rather than the environment.

"It's not just an ego trip for the chairman of Consolidated Goldfields. I believe any company is a better company if it is staffed by caring managers and employees."

And he makes a rather surprising admission for the chairman of a group which has traditionally supported the Conservative Party with an annual contribution to funds (though perhaps not for much longer): "I don't buy the typical image that certain novels would have of me, where you can only make money if you are a hard Victorian taskmaster."

In any case Mr Agnew says that he has had a passionate interest in the environment since he was a child brought up in Ireland. He is a trustee of the World Wildlife Fund, a member of the council of the Game Conservancy, a council member of

the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, and also supports the National Association of Boys Clubs in his spare time.

ConsGold plans to fund several environmental projects in the current financial year, including the establishment of a permanent geological exhibition at the Wellington Country Park, near Reading; sponsoring six young people from rural areas to participate in Operation Raleigh; and the restoration of Gull Island, a breeding ground for wild life in the Beaulieu estuary near Southampton.

Mr Agnew yesterday appealed to environmental groups to put forward new ideas for improving the environment which could benefit from the trust.

At the same time ConsGold is at an advanced stage in discussions with the Manpower Services Commission over the creation of a residential and non-residential training centre at the

ARC Wildfowl Centre, Great Linford, which is the site of a former ARC gravel working near Milton Keynes. The aim will be to select groups



Rudolph Agnew: "not just an ego trip"

of 25 to 30 young people at a time from rural areas and offer a course of up to two weeks which will offer a mixture of training in rural skills, water sports, and

appreciation of the environment.

If this proves to be a success the trust will work towards providing funds for the creation of small workshops and businesses which use traditional rural skills. Mr Agnew also hopes to bring together groups of unemployed workers in rural areas who can offer to work for the agricultural industries on a sub-contract basis to help bring life back to rural areas and communities which have been economically devastated by recession.

"In a tiny way I set out to redress the balance between the immense sums spent on culture and on fashionable activities and the neglect of the basic environment in which we operate."

Managers within the group are already aware of their chairman's keen interest in the environment. "If I go to one of our operations and there is no environmental plan, the manager knows about it there and then."

In addition, managers are now being asked to consider ways of helping the unemployed in the rural areas, where the group tends to operate. This has led to an increase in the number of unemployed young people hired for summer work.

And Mr Agnew appears desperately keen to become a member of the so-called "one per cent club" of businesses which contribute one per cent of their profits to charitable work. ConsGold is halfway there with the contribution of one per cent of dividend, but could easily be persuaded to become a fully paid up member.

But Mr Agnew confesses there is still a long way to go. "It will take up to three years to get the trust set up the way we would like."

In the meantime the cynics may care to test the theory that ConsGold does have a conscience when it comes to environmental and social issues by approaching Mr Agnew with some constructive ideas.

VISITORS to New York's Museum of Modern Art may be left with the impression that Olivetti makes beautiful typewriters and little else. On display at the museum's permanent collection are the famous Lettera 22 portable, which ended production in 1950 and still loyally withstands the daily battering under many a journalist's rough hands, the colourful plastic-cased Valentine portable, the Editor 2 electric typewriter both of which date from the late 1960s and the Lexikon 80 from 1949.

But such an impression would certainly be mistaken. Less than one quarter of the Olivetti group's turnover in 1983 was generated by the sales of typewriters and word processors, compared to more than one third three years earlier.

During the 1970s the company has been moving steadily away from its traditional and widely known product, shifting the emphasis decisively into the electronic world of data processing and office automation.

Apart from the exhibits in the New York museum, the very large volume of typewriters produced by Olivetti has helped to create the image of a one product company. More than 10 million Olivetti typewriters have been sold worldwide. The first Italian typewriter, the M1 which was presented at the Universal Exhibition in Turin in 1911, was followed by a stream of models Tekne 25, Lettera 35s 36s, Praxis 35s and 48s, Lexikon 82s 83s and 90s and the more recent Lettera 10s and ET series occupied desk space in offices all round the world.

Company strategy in the mid 1980s is, however, based firstly on advanced technology and product diversification. In recent years Olivetti has spent \$60 million for venture capital investment in various sectors, buying into thirty high technology companies.

Olivetti's executive vice-president for strategies, Elisirino Pini, said yesterday that the group's purchase of 49.3 per cent of the troubled Acorn Computers was in line with the group's policy of developing partly through a network of alliances.

Moreover the acquisition of 25 per cent of Olivetti's share capital by US giant AT&T, at the end of 1983, further underlines how tightly the Italian company

Chip route into nineties for the typewriter giant

David Lane in Rome takes a look at the way Olivetti is shifting emphasis

is tying itself to an electronic future.

Olivetti is convinced that the agreement with AT&T offers many benefits over and above the financial advantages arising from the US company's stake in its share capital. AT&T's research and development capacity, and its know-how and experience in telecommunications are seen as giving a boost to Olivetti in a crucial area.

There is, however, some disappointment concerning the commercial results achieved during the first year of the agreement, with AT&T's sale of Olivetti personal computers in the US market being less than had been hoped.

AT&T's acquisition of its large shareholding in Olivetti represented a seal of recog-

nition on the turn-around which the Italian company has achieved since the late 1970s. At its nadir in 1978, the Olivetti group lost 88 billion lire on turnover of 1,556 billion lire. But a rapid cure by chairman Carlo De Benedetti who joined the Iri-based company in April 1978, turned the bottom line immediately into profit.

In 1980 the Olivetti group made net profits of 104 billion lire on turnover of 2,180 billion lire, figures which by 1983 have climbed to 295 billion lire net profit on turnover of 3,736 billion lire.

Results for last year are not yet available but company officials say that turnover was about 25 per cent higher than in 1983, thus putting it at about 4,600 billion lire. Officials expect

that when the profit figure is announced it will show a substantial increase on last year.

The curative action which Carlo De Benedetti took six and seven years ago was directed at the elimination of Olivetti's financial and economic weaknesses. Recapitalisation and the reduction of indebtedness were fundamental.

Share capital has risen from 108 billion lire at the end of 1979 to 450 billion lire in May last year, and the company's net capital has risen six fold over the same period and now exceeds 1,200 billion lire. Net financial indebtedness has dropped from 938 billion lire at the end of 1978 to 725 billion lire, five years later.

It is indicative of the direction taken by Olivetti that, while reducing overall job levels, the number of people which it employs in research and development has moved steadily upwards.

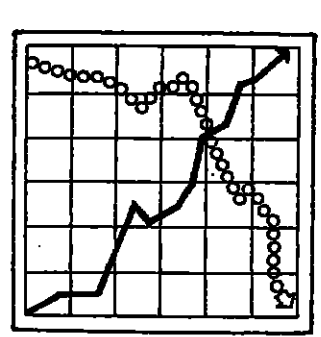
Much of the credit for the survival and relaunching of Olivetti is given to chairman Carlo De Benedetti personally. Fifty years old and born in Turin, about 30 miles south of Iri, Mr De Benedetti has rarely been far from the headlines. Before arriving at Olivetti in 1978 his varied curriculum vitae included a four month stint as chief executive of Fiat from May to August 1976. Between November 1981 and January 1982 he was deputy chairman of the ill-fated Banco Ambrosiano, a position he vacated after differences with the bank's chairman Roberto Calvi.

Notwithstanding his extensive interests elsewhere, (through his family company CIR, Mr De Benedetti recently acquired control of one of Italy's largest pasta factories, Irida di S. R. Buitoni, Perugia), he has managed to dedicate sufficient time to Olivetti to bring it safely through a period of major reconstruction. Olivetti, which claims to be Europe's leading office automation equipment company, may no longer be giving the same attention to producing attractive award winning typewriters but it confidently expects to be winning results in the market place with computers like its personal M21 and M24, and other electronic office equipment.



Carlo De Benedetti (left) and Elisirino Pini... network of alliances

Stagnation solves nobody's problems —let's have plenty of green growth



ECONOMICS

Most economists are so dismissive of the ecologists' arguments for zero growth that they tend to ignore their case altogether — a thoroughly dangerous policy which leaves the body of deeply-rooted, intuitively appealing but profoundly wrong fallacies. It also means that the kernels of truth in the "green" argument get lost where they may count. It is worth separating the wheat from the chaff.

First of all, growth clearly is viable. Not only can it happen, but it has. Britain's output grew last year by 2 1/2 per cent. America's growth was near 7 per cent over the year, which brought its unemployment rate down by 2 percentage points to 7 1/2 per cent. And the good news is that developed world growth of nearly 5 per cent on average the best since 1976 — has had virtually no demonstrable effect on world commodity prices.

Oil has risen in most currencies in real terms, but other commodities have merely recovered from a trough in the earlier part of last year to show unchanged real prices — after allowing for the price rises of western manufactures — over the year before.

This of course was never meant to happen on the view of the world so assiduously peddled by the Club of Rome back in 1973, and whose adherents still linger in such havens of the "alternative economics" as The Other Economic Summit (TOES) to be held this April. What the Club's view did not take into account, however, was that scarcity leads to a rise in price, and that you do not need to be an economist to see that price rises cause demand to fall and supply to increase.

The sharp rise in oil prices had exactly those effects: the graph shows that the amount of oil needed to produce \$1,000 of output fell by 21 1/2 per cent since 1973. On the supply side, one recent estimate was that published proved reserves of oil amounted to 32 years' production at current rates — the same as at the end of the sixties.

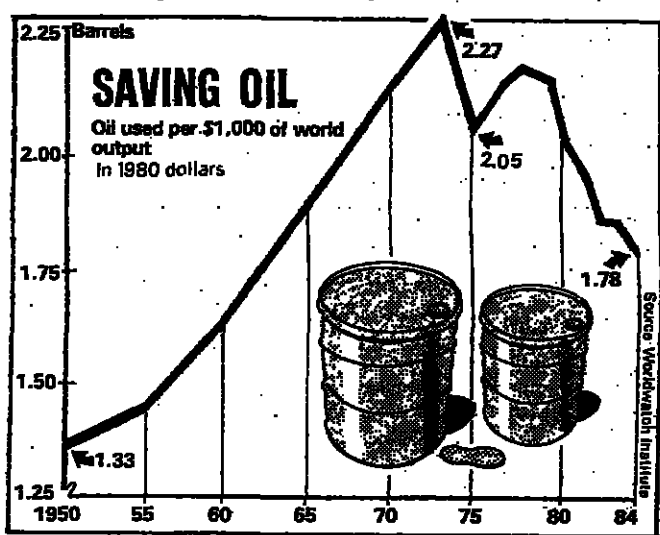
Higher oil prices have caused the oil companies to try harder to prove reserves, but they have also led to a sharp growth of substitutes, as the Worldwatch Institute's report "State of the World 1985" shows. The major substitutes like coal, natural gas, wood and hydropower have grown at annual rates over the last five years of between 1 and 4 per cent. The growth of minor sources has been more dramatic — with nuclear up 9 per cent, geothermal up 15 per cent, wind power up 75 per cent, alcohol fuels up 30 per cent and solar energy up 20 per cent.

For all those encouraging signs, though, there is something just a little too complacent about the conventional economist's dismissal of concern about natural resources. The first is the commonsense point that price changes do not tend to happen smoothly, and therefore there can be a justification for governments to

the North Sea's oil rigs — but not the oil. Verily, we are selling the family silver to pay the grocery bill. Economists need balance sheets of assets as well as profit and loss accounts of income.

A change in the accounting conventions would be useful if only in highlighting our need to maintain natural and man-made capital: this is more than a debating point, for the Worldwatch study shows that the erosion of topsoils through desertification in the Third World could have ultimately disastrous effects on production. In the poor countries, the dilemma will increasingly be between the control of rising birth rates — as in China — or uncontrolled and rising death rates.

Conventional economists would also be well-advised to take on board some of the other criticisms of the growth objective, as defined by the Gross Domestic Prod-



uct figures. Side-effects such as pollution have in the past been controlled — the clean Air Acts in this country abolished London smogs. But that is not the end of a story which now most ominously includes the spread of acid rain and the blight of many central European forests. Some sort of Quality of Life Index, such as the Japanese have, would be a valuable supplement to GDP or GNP.

However flawed a measure of welfare, Gross Domestic Product nevertheless remains the most convincing broad indicator of prosperity. It seems to beggar belief that the real indicators of welfare which have improved in line with the growth of national income do not signify material gains: lives themselves, after all, are longer on average by 15 years than they were at the turn of the century; 86 per cent had holidays of four weeks or more in 1981 compared with only 7 per cent in 1970; hours of work had fallen from 47 a week in 1970 to 44 by 1981. We have more phones, cars, and disposable income: all of them increasing choice

Our best hope of avoiding any such a cataclysm of melting ice caps and dusting bowls through substantial investment in non-fossil fuel substitutes, none of which (except hydro-electricity) now accounts for more than three per cent of world energy output. But that, of course, requires investment. And that in turn requires increase in GDP — and even in GNP. Let us by all means have green growth — but not at the expense of the nation's well-being.

Linking calculations made in the 1970s to inflation, appears that for every degree Centigrade the annual temperature falls below the mean, the Firms must pay an extra \$32 million in district heating costs.

Amazingly, everything functions smoothly, however bad the winter becomes. Streets are efficiently cleared of snow and ice, and delivery of transport are exceptional.

Donald Fields

and hence individual freedom.

At the bottom line, millions of people in the developed democracies who have voted time and again for politicians to give them more growth cannot be that wrong, and to assume that they are is to posit the most gigantic confidence trick in human history. Those who argue that these tastes are artificially created by corporations stray perilously close to the arrogant Marxist doctrine of "false consciousness" in assuming that they know better than the rest of us.

An objective of zero growth would also imply, of course, that we could not improve the lot of the poor in this country or abroad — save by depressing the living standards of the richer, which is not likely to be an easy trick to pull off. The social problems of the last decade have surely been not to too much growth, but too little, as a fair sample of any council tenement in this sceptred isle would show, even if the Volvo-owning classes would not.

For similar reasons, the ecologists' notion that we must now share out work because our consumers are sated with goods and services which require ever fewer people to produce is too feeble for words. Just watch how consumers spend their extra money in tax cuts. What causes unemployment is not the saturation of wants but the fear of government that we will get too greedy and want still more goods than the economy can deliver if unemployment were allowed to fall. The real reason for unemployment is precisely the opposite of the explanation advanced by the "greens."

Zero growth would not even, in the final analysis, help to resolve the ecologists' own most pressing concerns. "Greenhouse effects" due to the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by fossil fuel burning may well pose a serious threat, as the Worldwatch Institute argues. But slower growth or even the same output as now (i.e. zero growth) — would merely postpone the date of the crisis for a decade or two, and would be rather less than a green revolution.

Our best hope of avoiding any such a cataclysm of melting ice caps and dusting bowls through substantial investment in non-fossil fuel substitutes, none of which (except hydro-electricity) now accounts for more than three per cent of world energy output. But that, of course, requires investment. And that in turn requires increase in GDP — and even in GNP. Let us by all means have green growth — but not at the expense of the nation's well-being.

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SGB GROUP

Improved results reflect strong UK performance

Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Neville Clifford-Jones

The optimism which I felt last year has been borne out dramatically in the UK although offset to some extent by setbacks overseas, especially in Australia.

UK profits amounted to £14 million despite the decline in our overseas cost activity owing to the coal dispute. The overall loss overseas was largely due to Australia and North America and to lower Middle East demand for our products. Movements in exchange rates reduced profits by almost £850,000 over the year.

Owing to the marked contrast in results between home and overseas this year I would like to comment on the individual results in more than usual detail.

At home our scaffolding activities did well and are still our major profit contributor, accounting for 30% of home profits. Contract scaffolding was particularly strong and it was necessary to increase stocks substantially to meet the increased demand. The Youngman Group had excellent results, accounting for 21% of home profits. The hire side of their business was very strong. The HSS Hire Group which accounted for 23% of home profits was buoyant, the improvement being particularly marked in the provinces. Peter Cox and Sika companies doubled their profit and continue to increase their share of the market. Our plant hire activity, CSG, returned to profit for the first time for a number of years.

Overseas our South African company had a good year and our European companies in Holland, Germany and France all returned to profitability. The prospects in Holland are looking brighter than for some time. Our direct export and Middle East companies declined sharply. In the Middle East our products are mostly sold into new projects and as activity runs down there are large surpluses of second-hand material on the market. However a small secondary market in hire and contract is gradually emerging. In the Far East our developing companies in Singapore and Malaysia have been disappointingly slow to get off the ground but Hong Kong performed well. In the United States and Canada a substantial loss was returned but this was in part due to the costs

Year in Brief	1984	1983
Group turnover	£17,455	£16,418
Group profit before tax	11,097	7,543
Group profit after tax and minority interests	7,763	4,061
Shareholders' funds	98,281	76,501
Return on shareholders' funds measured by group profit before tax	15.8%	9.5%
Earnings per share	18.4p	9.7p
Final dividend per share	4.0p	3.3p
Total dividends per share	6.3p	5.6p

*Reduced by transfer to deferred tax following provisions of Finance Act 1984

involved in changing from directly owned branches to a distributor network which we feel will show better long term results. In Australia the severity and nature of the loss (£2.5 million together with £1.5 million relating to stock and attributable to prior years) has caused us completely to change the Executive Board of the company and appoint a new Non-Executive Chairman and a new Managing Director. Whilst the magnitude of the loss will certainly not be repeated it is

nevertheless difficult to foresee a return to profit for the Australian company in the immediate future.

As envisaged in my last report, group borrowings as a percentage of shareholders' funds decreased from 57% to 50%, on a strictly comparable basis, during the year and were further reduced after the year end by the receipt of monies from the sale of the leasing company.

The current year has started well and profits at home should continue to improve, whilst overseas losses will be reduced substantially.

Sir Edgar Beck will, at his own request, not be seeking re-election at the Annual General Meeting next March. He joined the Board in 1942 and was Chairman for 20 years between 1968 and 1978. His contribution during this time has been invaluable.

Mr. Donald Holland and Mr. Michael Wates, Chairmen of Balfour Beatty and Wates Holdings respectively, have been appointed to the Board as non-executive directors.

The results of operating companies do not necessarily always reflect the efforts of those involved when they are working in varied and sometimes difficult market conditions. The Board's thanks go to all employees for the efforts they have made over the past year.

Dividend The directors recommend a final dividend of 4.0p per share making a total of 6.3p per share for the year (1983 5.6p per share).

Copies of the Annual Report for the year ended September 28th 1984, are available from The Secretary, SGB GROUP plc, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TQ. Tel: 01-640 3365.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. on March 19th, 1985 at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, London.

SGB GROUP

Dreams made out of inflated values

In addition, many of the now being asked to place in the rural areas. This has led to a massive exodus of young people from the cities and towns. And Mr. Agnew, who is a member of the Conservative Party, has been a vocal critic of the government's economic policy. He has argued that the government's policies have led to a massive exodus of young people from the cities and towns. He has argued that the government's policies have led to a massive exodus of young people from the cities and towns. He has argued that the government's policies have led to a massive exodus of young people from the cities and towns.

Chaining children to the bedpost to keep them under control is wrong, like sending them up chimneys or down the stairs. It is a cruel and inhuman act, and it is a disgrace to the nation. It is a disgrace to the nation. It is a disgrace to the nation.

Government borrowing amounts to around 4 per cent of the national income, and in spite of innumerable promises and some fiddling of the books, it has shown little sign of reduction. As lower state spending is the main plank remaining on the scaffolding in the hands of the Conservative government, it is a serious question whether the government can confidently be expected to reduce the borrowing.

INVESTMENT

Robin Stoddart

Chaining children to the bedpost to keep them under control is wrong, like sending them up chimneys or down the stairs. It is a cruel and inhuman act, and it is a disgrace to the nation. It is a disgrace to the nation. It is a disgrace to the nation.

Although public or other off the building might not seem to command a very high priority, the infrastructure does, and soon will. And if one of the more reliable areas of rapid growth is going to be the tourist industry, a spot of beautification would not go amiss, along with more native employment if the necessary grants are available.

Veracity and government are not necessarily incompatible and when rightist administrations admit that they are ill-suited to decide on the best interests of the country, they are showing greater honesty than some of the more socialist leanings. In an age of rapidly advancing technology the role of market forces may be all the more vital. But when job elimination is still running faster than job creation, more Government involvement is necessary and inevitable.

The new emphasis on enterprise and incentive is perfectly reasonable, too, so long as it works. It does, apparently, in the US. If it is beginning to work in Britain, the results are taking an unconscionably long time to show through. Too long against the background of the damage inflicted by the high exchange and interest rate regime of five years ago. Intolerably long when the memory of the return to near-record real interest rates and expansion seems beyond the ken of most top industrialists.

Profits and honours have been heaped not so much on the creators of new businesses, as in the past, but frequently on those who have been quick to eliminate losses, sometimes in privatisation and merger exercises that have decimated employment and transferred the cost, or much of it, back to the state. It is an odd state of affairs when capitalists are knighted for such public disservice and private gain.

Takeover rumours keep investors on their toes

THE MARKETS

Stock market activity was dominated by takeover speculation yesterday as a £180 million rights issue to finance bids for Haden and the Varrow shipyard. Haden immediately rejected the 240p cash terms as inadequate and opportunistic and the shares raced ahead to close 48p higher at 280p.

Earlier this week the shares had risen 20p to 260p on rumours of a bid. Trafalgar House lost 12p to 355p, but other engineering issues were stimulated by hopes of further mergers in the sector.

Outside the takeover favourites, business was pretty slack as dealers continued to watch the pound and await developments from the Prime Minister's visit to America, and Paul Volcker's speech to Congress.

In the event prices closed below the best of the pound sank under \$1.09.

Gills ended little changed having been three-eighths firmer. Index-linked issues improved three-eighths or so.

Leading shares were mixed. Imperial Group recovered 5p to 211p on US demand and an encouraging circular. Plessey, at 176p, recovered 7p to 183p ahead of today's third-quarter figures, which are anxiously awaited after recent gloomy statements from major electronic companies. Analysts hope for nine-month profits of around £123 million, a little below the £124.6 million for the same period last year.

During the session there was also relief as Olivetti confirmed the rescue plan for Acorn Computers. Companies in the Fleet 250p up 5p to 368p, on American buying in front of the results next week. BET slipped 13p to 285p on the not unexpected news that the company is renewing its offer for initial 12p to 13p to 130p, following the go-ahead by the Monopolies Commission.

Banks staged a modest recovery in spite of the worsening problems in South America. St. William Clark's remarks at a broker's seminar that the Chancellor will not attack pension concessions brought some calm to life assurance. Golds slipped one to two dollars and platinum lost more ground.

Leading equities closed with a mixed appearance, but ICI were firmer after a brokers' circular, ahead of next week's results. They gained 5p to 867p. Lucas also added 5p, to 255p, thanks to US support. Oils were mixed. BP gave up 2p at 642p. Banks also lacked a particular trend. NatWest relinquished 2p at 692p, but Barclays improved by 8p at 617p. Elsewhere, bid speculation and bid approaches provided much of the activity. Victor Products, up 16p at 118p, Martonair, 14p ahead at 344p, and Matthew Hall, which was active as aggressive as they built up positions in preparation for the start of a new monthly trading account. The general market indicator finished the session with a gain of 0.54 per cent. Advancing issues outnumbered declines 111 to 51.

Frankfurt: Profit-taking bumped share prices down from firmer opening levels leaving stock quotes mixed at the end of lively dealing. The Commerbank Index, which is compiled at midday, registered 1185.5, a new record highest level. The reading was up 7.5 points from Tuesday's level, which had also been an all-time high. Dealers said the market's tone remained optimistic, backed by solid foreign buying in the wake of the dollar's rise to more than 13-year-high levels against the mark, which makes West German investments particularly attractive.

Tokyo: Prices fell in dull trading. Brokers said the market was overdone after a surging session. Although Wall Street's decline on Tuesday hurt prices of some shares traded in New York, overall the impact was neutral, a broker said. The Nikkei Dow Jones index, 12,152.37 (12,156.64).

Hong Kong: Stock Exchange closed for the Chinese lunar year holiday.

Money markets: Overnight money opened at 14.13 per cent, but spent most of the morning on 14.13 per cent, the early part of the afternoon saw a firming to 14.14 per cent, and the rate moved on to 14.14 per cent in the late afternoon ending around 15 per cent.

Periods tended a little easier at first encouraged by the way the pound was holding relatively steady during the morning, but the early afternoon. Bid rates firmed again when sterling wobbled and then weakened in the second half of the afternoon. The 12-month Interbank term deposit, for instance, eased to 12.7/16 to 12.5/16 per cent, but ended a higher bid around 12.1/16 to 12.9/16 per cent.

COMPANY BRIEFING

Dee goes wooing with new forecast

The Dee Corporation continues its recent courtship of the City with a new profit forecast for the full year of not less than £56 million.

Dee's aggressive chairman, Mr. Alet Monk, said that not only as the group did not pay an unrealistic price for Booker, but the group's current share price provides an excellent opportunity for Dee to diversify through Booker's agricultural and health interests.

Dee is also forecasting earnings per share of not less than 14p and it expects to reorganise a final dividend of not less than 3.5p - making a total of at least 5.75p. Dee, Mr. Monk said, has shown compound annual growth of 40 per cent over the last four years, but the group's current share price does not fully reflect this record.

While the City has speculated about Dee's real intentions towards Booker, the group is keen to stress the

Rowland reticent

Mr. Tiny Rowland, chief executive of the giant Lorch group, was as usual giving nothing away about his intentions towards the House of Fraser in the group's annual report yesterday.

In his tight-lipped way Mr. Rowland tells shareholders: "With our knowledge of the business we considered our purchases, at around 300p per share, to be an attractive investment. We have also been before the Monopolies Commission and the outcome of their deliberations will have a direct bearing on our future plans regarding House of Fraser."

Shareholders are reminded that Lorch, which bought its shares in the Harrods group for just under £67 million, sold out to the Al-Fayed brothers for £138 million and retained the right to receive a

Goode boost

Shares in Goode Durrant and Murray, the banking services, jumped 16p to 64p yesterday on news that the group may have received an approach which may lead to a bid.

Goode's chairman, Mr. Lionel Robinson, who controls over 60 per cent of the group through a Cayman Islands trust company, said that discussions had reached a serious stage.

Market rumours suggested Mr. Michael Ashcroft's Hawley group, which has expressed interest in expanding into financial services, but there was no comment available from Mr. Robinson.

The group also owns housebuilding interests and a department store in New Zealand.

Clyde's offer

Clyde Petroleum's £9 million cash bid for Petrolex is based on the value of its stake in the Forties field and a payment for a small stake in a discovery that will probably be uneconomic unless tied in with an adjoining field in which Clyde already has a stake.

That is the argument in the offer document, but the 58p-a-share offer is 10p below the price at which Petrolex was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market last summer. Since the bid it has rebounded 18p almost back to that figure in small-scale trading.

Petrolex's board and its advisers have so far declined to meet the Clyde directors or give an estimate of how much the company's assets are realistically worth. The value to Clyde accrues from the tax saving that a Forties stake would bring when the income is spent on exploration.

Depletion and the weaker oil price trend since the Forties unit auction means that in effect a little over £2 million is being offered for the stakes held by Petrolex in two small discoveries - one in the gas area Quadrant 48 and the

In short...

TECHNOLOGY Inc, the US industrial and aerospace group, yesterday extended its £4 million takeover terms for Butterfield-Harvey, the loss-making mechanical engineering group, for a further three weeks until March 12. TI has holdings and share option rights which, if exercised, would give it a total holding of 55.1 per cent of Butterfield-Harvey's enlarged share capital.

PLEASURAMA's £118 million agreed bid for Trident Television will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission for investigation, the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday. The merger brings together Trident's Claremont, Victoria Sporting Club, Connoisseur and Village Club, under the same roof as Pleasurama's Maxim's casino in London and 17 other provincial casinos.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

British Funds	14th Feb 1985	13th Feb 1985
Investment	118.5	118.5
Equity	118.5	118.5
Bond	118.5	118.5
Commodity	118.5	118.5
Real Estate	118.5	118.5
Other	118.5	118.5

Breweries	14th Feb 1985	13th Feb 1985
Adnams	118.5	118.5
Beck's	118.5	118.5
Carlsberg	118.5	118.5
Guinness	118.5	118.5
Heineken	118.5	118.5
King	118.5	118.5
Labatt	118.5	118.5
Miller	118.5	118.5
Stout	118.5	118.5
Tottenham	118.5	118.5
Watney	118.5	118.5
Windsor	118.5	118.5

Commonwealth Bonds	14th Feb 1985	13th Feb 1985
100% Govt	118.5	118.5
100% Local	118.5	118.5
100% Foreign	118.5	118.5
100% Other	118.5	118.5
100% Total	118.5	118.5

Corps & Bonds	14th Feb 1985	13th Feb 1985
100% Govt	118.5	118.5
100% Local	118.5	118.5
100% Foreign	118.5	118.5
100% Other	118.5	118.5
100% Total	118.5	118.5

The latest round of World Cup qualifying matches are played next week. David Lacey examines the state of the road to Mexico

Beckenbauer's search for a star

When Mexico last staged the World Cup, in 1970, the favourites were then regarded as the outstanding teams in their respective hemispheres — England, the holders, and Brazil, the eventual winners.

At the moment no international side can be said to command similar respect although France, after 12 successive victories in a European Championship, may be inclined to disengage. Moreover, the advance of the Third World, and especially Africa, in international competition has seriously undermined some of the traditional assumptions.

West Germany have never been quite the same since losing their opening game of the 1982 tournament 2-1 to Algeria. True, they reached the final but their football has yet to recover its old assurance, witness the recent scrambled victory in Malta.

Franz Beckenbauer, now in charge of the side following the departure of Jupp Derwall, desperately needs new players of genuine international quality. At the moment West Germany are still heavily reliant on Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Karl-Heinz Förster and Bregel, and they badly need the creative influence of someone like Schuster, who inspired them to the 1980 European Championship triumph and is now playing better than ever for Barcelona.

Italy qualify automatically as holders and will need all the time they can get to reassemble and re-infuse life into their disparate team. Rossi, Conti, Scirea, and Capello are still there but they need the needed. The other automatic qualifiers, Mexico, the host nation, are no longer the pushovers they appeared to be when the draw was made but will hardly go in as World Cup favourites.

Form in the qualifying competition usually has little bearing on what happens in the finals but the early prowess of France, England, Scotland and Hungary cannot be ignored altogether.

France are playing the most attractive football at present with Platini, Tigana, Giresse, and Fernandez recalling their best moments of the European Championship during the recent 2-0 defeat of East Germany. However, Giresse's legs are tiring, the strikers are of ordinary quality and the defence would be vulnerable without Bossis.

Remembering the way in which the French started to flounder after reaching the semi-finals of the European Championship there must be doubts about their ability to keep going in the Mexico heat. Again the conditions will favour teams such as Brazil, Uruguay and Spain who know how to pace themselves, along with England and Scotland who are seldom found out in tests of stamina.

After the Spanish experience the format of the 24-nation tournament has been changed to introduce the excitement of a knockout competition at an earlier stage. Again the World Cup finals will begin with six groups of four completed on a league basis but this time the top two teams from each section plus the four best third-placed sides will go straight into the sudden death.

The 1986 World Cup opens on May 31 with the final on June 29. The 12 venues are Juarez, Guadalajara, Irapuato, Leon, Mexico City, Monterrey, Puebla, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Tampico, Toluca and Veracruz.

To get their players used to the conditions in Mexico City, which is a hot and polluted city, Italy and West Germany in the Aztec Stadium in June.



MEXICO OR BUST: Scotland's Jock Stein... on a crest; Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany... trying to pull out of a trough



WORLD CUP GROUPS AND TABLES

GROUP ONE. — The advance of Albania, and Belgium's decline, has made this group much more open than it might have been. Albania followed up their 2-2 draw in Poland by beating the weebees 2-0 and must go on to win the group. Belgium, who were the favourites, will look to Sofia, Van der Meer, and the like to revive them, and the final match in the group, between Poland and Belgium, could still be the most crucial.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
West Germany	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	2	2
Albania	4	0	4	0	3	14	0

GROUP TWO. — Here again it is difficult to find a consistent pattern in the games played so far. Portugal began well by winning in Sweden and beating the Czechs but then lost at home to the Swedes. West Germany's response to the brave world of Franz Beckenbauer, who succeeded Jupp Derwall as manager, was to scrape a 3-2 victory in Malta after falling behind. Even so the Germans should make it with the Czechs at present most likely to accompany them.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
West Germany	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	2	2
Albania	4	0	4	0	3	14	0

GROUP THREE. — England's imperious beginning should not be allowed to put out a large number of points to be won or lost and Bobby Robson will breathe much more easily once he knows that the pre-Christmas appetite for goals has been maintained and that he need not lose either in Northern Ireland next month or in Finland in early summer. But Romania, their opponents in Bucharest on May day, are a different matter. Indeed, the Irish, with their last three matches away, face the possibility of being overtaken by the Romanians.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
West Germany	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	2	2
Albania	4	0	4	0	3	14	0

GROUP FOUR. — France, still playing like the European champions they are, should win this group with ease. However they did struggle to defeat Bulgaria in Paris and on present form the Bulgarians have a better chance than Yugoslavia of qualifying as runners-up. The Yugoslavs will doubtless steal a march on Bulgaria by beating Luxembourg but if they fail to halt France's winning run of a dozen games in April the initiative will pass back to Socha.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
West Germany	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	2	2
Albania	4	0	4	0	3	14	0

GROUP FIVE. — After their dismal showing in the last European Championship, Hungary are pulling their game together and three straight wins, including a victory in Holland, have set them on course for the finals. Austria ought to make the play-offs with the runners-up from Group One but the number of goals every body scores against Cyprus may be decisive. The Dutch must be hoping that if they have to win in Budapest on May 14 the opposition will have scored a place in Mexico by then.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
West Germany	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	2	2
Albania	4	0	4	0	3	14	0

CRICKET

Matthew Engel in Melbourne

Indians back in form

A FUNNY and for England, unnerving thing happened in Melbourne on Sunday when India, whose eccentric approach to one-day cricket has been a feature of the winter, entered the world championship with a dramatic rediscovery of the form that won them the World Cup two years ago.

The Indians beat Pakistan to go level with Australia at the top of Group A, and already England are under pressure. If Australia beat Pakistan on Sunday and England lose to India on Tuesday, they will be out of the competition.

Even 48 hours ago Gower's team, having beaten India four times out of five in one-day games, would not have worried about taking them again. But their confidence, after a defeat against Australia and two awful performances in practice matches, is now almost as broken as Tim Robinson's. And now a new reality is imposed by the sight of a team who bear a vague facial resemblance to the crew that lost to England in places like Bangalore but otherwise look nothing like them.

The man of the match, and you could have guessed this, was Mohammed Azharuddin who, on his first overseas appearance, not to mention his first game under lights, performed with the slight, almost plump, that marked his 818 runs against England, and scored 93 not out. Those of us who knew all about him sat there with the smug air of people in on a secret. And now the Australians marvelled at the easy confidence of his batting.

Mind you, as Azharuddin was not up against much. The Pakistani batting was tired, and the Indians, who had just won their first Test of the winter — and in fact, India bowled them out for 183. On these early Melbourne wickets the par score is around 250.

But it is hard to separate cricket and politics. Part of Pakistan's struggle was due to tight Indian bowling and fielding and a far more positive and thoughtful approach from Gavaskar.

The recalled bowling pair of Bhatia and Madan Lal did a much more confident job than the youngsters England have been facing, and Gavaskar was able to use his variation, shifting him successfully from over to under the wicket. Only Qasim Omar, who was out of an innings, and his 57 in 102 balls was too slow.

Pakistan had only one ace: Imran, who was playing his first international match in two years. Once or twice he showed promise to his old pre-keeper injury for New South Wales this winter. He did not reach it last night, but he still extracted far more life from the pitch than anyone else. He took three wickets, his opening burst, all through unexpected light: Shastri and Srikanth caught at slip and Vengaskar, first ball in the night.

As with Australia on Sunday night the fourth wicket stand turned the game: Azharuddin and Gavaskar put on 126 and, except when Gavaskar was out, he was a cover drive or a flat bat through the on-side off the back foot, there was no further excitement. The Pakistani, wearing a deep green shirt, seemed to recede invisibly into it.

Sydney is not even living up to its reputation for better weather than Melbourne: West Indies and New Zealand, who were expected to play on Tuesday, try again today. Meanwhile the chastened England have another practice match, against Victoria, on Wednesday. It is hardly an encouragement. Agnew, whose bowling has gone to pieces this week, rediscovered some of his rhythm in the nets and fears that Cowdrey's wrist was broken rather than bruised, a bit. He said he was in less pain and plans for a second X-ray were postponed.

Michael Cunningham's Rainbow Warrior is expected to book its ticket to Cheltenham for the Ritz Club Handicap Chase by taking the P Z Mower Chase at Thurley today. Rainbow Warrior has had a frustrating run this season, falling in the lead in the Fintona Chase at Leopardstown before running second to Seskin Bridge at Gowran Park.

Handicaps (12-1): 2, Dear Duet (4-1), 3, P Z Mower (2-1), 4, Rainbow Warrior (1-1), 5, Seskin Bridge (1-1), 6, Fintona (1-1), 7, Dear Duet (1-1), 8, P Z Mower (1-1), 9, Rainbow Warrior (1-1), 10, Seskin Bridge (1-1), 11, Fintona (1-1), 12, Dear Duet (1-1).

Ararun out of Champion betting

RACING

Richard Baerlein

The £20,000 Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday failed to unearth a serious challenger to Browne's Gazette and Gaye Brief for the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle.

Ararun, the favourite, was a disappointing fourth, and his performance was slightly disappointing in spite of the fact that he was said to need the outing. He had looked such a promising future prospect, and now the connections are unlikely to run him in the Champion for which he was third favourite at 8-1. He has been withdrawn from the betting.

Jockey Tony Mullins reported that Ararun had been hanging on the ground that was too fast for him, but added: "He jumped super, and could have been a little closer only didn't want to punish him when Fredcoter won."

Fredcoter won by a length and a half and was gaining first victory of the season. He is named third favourite for the Champion together with See You Then at 12-1 by Hills who have Browne's Gazette at 4-5 and Gaye Brief at 4-1.

The four-year-old, ally trained, trained by Dermot Weld, ran a real good trial for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle in finishing fourth, about four lengths behind the winner.

Tondbad had won her two previous races, and now the connections are unlikely to run her in the Champion for which he was third favourite at 8-1. He has been withdrawn from the betting.

Ararun, whose life story appears on the bookshelves this morning has been a close friend of mine for 30 years.

In 1963 after considerable persuasion because his wife Evelyn hated any form of publicity he finally allowed me to compile a book about him. The Observer on his amazing life style headed "The life of the Great Ararun". The book, which was published in the Observer, was a description of a gambler as he maintained he was an investor.

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THURLES

GOING: Soft.

2 00 Be My Luck

2 30 Hansel Reg

3 00 Rainbow

Warrior (nb)

3 30 Merry Buskins

4 00 Seven's Specs

4 30 Bally Muddagh

5 00 ELOGATY (nap)

14 000 MRS CASPER J. Scott 11-11-2

15 000 POPPER P. McCarthy 5-10-7

16 000 DUFFY J. Scott 11-11-2

17 000 DUFFY J. Scott 11-11-2

18 000 DUFFY J. Scott 11-11-2

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9 • 8 News. Checkpoint looks into alleged injustice

9 38 The Living World: Parrots and birds.
 10 0 News: Medicine Now.
 10 30 Morning Story: Loopy Lou and the Law. by W. J. Kirby.
 11 45 Daily Service.
 11 00 News: Announcers: Nigel Burns His News.
 11 15 News: Mary Goldring questions the Chancellor's political theology.
 11 48 Curious Corners. Unlikely house. Underground in Yorkshire.
 12 27 30 Just a Minute. Pointless gabbling
 1 00 The World at One: News.
 1 08 The Archers.
 2 00 News: Back to Hour. Trace your tree back to Adam - Salt Lake City's genealogical library.
 3 00 News, Afternoon Play: I Chose Freedom, by Robert Carver.
 3 48 Problems of a European exile in America.
 4 00 News: Engage Within.
 4 08 Bookend.
 4 40 Story Time: Old Glory, by Jonathan Raban (41).
 5 00 PM, News: Magazine.
 5 08 The O'Clock News.
 6 30 My Word: Pagan's game.
 7 00 News: The Assignments.
 7 28 Any Answers?
 7 40 International: Radio 4.
 8 00 Electric Ice. Life with Robin Cousins.
 8 40 Profile.
 9 00 News: Take Sugar? Magazine for the disabled.
 9 38 John Ebdon in the Archives.
 10 45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.
 10 15 18 Venus, by Olivia Manning (8).
 11 30 The World Tonight.
 11 15 The Financial World Tonight.
 11 30 Today.
 12 00 News: weather; shipping.
 12 45 55 P. 9.50-10.45 am: 11.0-12.0 Schools.
 12 45 55 P. 10.45-11.00 am: 11.0-12.0 Schools.
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More, 12 30 pm Lunchtime Report, News, 1 0 As Radu, 4 1 40 Options, 2 3 Taking Issue with Colin Bell, 3 3 The Art Suffer Show, 5 0 Good Evening Scotland 6-0

[illegible][illegible]

OLIVIER. 928 2252 C.C. 928 5433 B. (National Theatre's open stage). The play is a comedy, but it is a good one, and it is a good one. It is a good one, and it is a good one.	RAYMOND SHOWBAR AT LA VIE EN ROSE (R. G. Windmill) 0512928 0512928 Paul Raymond presents	WYNDHAM 5. 830 3022 C.C. (61 4444 379 6362 379 6483 (4444 6123 856 3968, Eve 8. 3022 C.C. 6123 6123 6123 6123 6123 6123 6123	LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (4444 5272) IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES 8. 3022 C.C. 6123 6123 6123 6123
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LUMIERE CINEMA.
Mortimer Lane. N.C.
Leicester. 541. Edd.

[illegible]

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY. Friends and family of Mrs. Mary Jones.

DEATHS

BLAKE (CARTER). On February 19, 1985, at the age of 82, Mrs. Mary Jones.

TUITION

ARE YOU SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN OR WINTER?

Interested in intensive tuition which encompasses the latest colour analysis.

HEALTH FOR ALL

A Week-End Course in London on health and fitness designed to help you maintain and improve your own health.

WOLLEY HALL

WOLLEY HALL, home study for G.C.E. and A.C.E. courses.

ASIAN Children in Care?

YES! We need help from Asian families in Newham to care for them.

If you are Asian why don't you think about fostering or adoption?

Ring us on 534 5306. We'd be happy to tell you more or complete the slip below and return to:

Room 307, Listering and Adoption, 50 The Green, Stratford, E15.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Tel No: _____

Please tick below: () Please send me more information on adopting a child () Please send me more information on fostering a child () I would like a social worker to visit and discuss this further

LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

A HOME FOR LINDA

Linda is a lively talkative 18-year-old with a mental handicap.

She needs supervision and guidance from tolerant adults in a family setting.

Childhood and adolescence have been difficult since her mother left her and she became homesick. Linda's daughter is fostered on a long term basis.

Linda enjoys records, T.V. and helping to cook. She is good humoured and is developing skills despite her deprived earlier years.

She is vulnerable and can demand time and attention but needs to grow up with an experience of family life which has been denied her previously.

We are seeking a long term placement with a family or couple in the South London area to enable her to remain in education in London.

If you can undertake to provide the accommodation and support Linda requires and have some understanding of her special needs, please contact:

CHRIS MARTINDALE, MUNICIPAL OFFICES, 181 WALWORTH ROAD, LONDON SE17 1JY Telephone: 785 5464.

QUICK CROSSWORD No. 4,640

ACROSS: 1. Unpretentious (6). 2. Downy contempt (4, 2). 3. Noisy fight (6). 4. Betwixt (7). 5. Not precisely (6). 6. Deep valley - eat a lot (6). 7. The fourth mustache? (6). 8. Extra - dominant (2, 3). 9. State, origin of fine goat's wool (7). 10. Small manual scale (7). 11. Specious (6). 12. Leather worker (6). 13. Bear witness to (6). 14. Down: 1. Not stationary (4, 2). 2. Gem that cuts (7). 3. Soothe (lips or conscience) (6). 4. Model of excellence (7). 5. Drunkard (5). 6. Lower (6). 7. Take-home money (3, 6). 8. Drive back (7). 9. One named for (6). 10. Burrowing marsupial (6). 11. Very keen (6). 12. In the flesh it is (6). 13. In the flesh it is (6). 14. Schism (6). 15. Defiled; 10. Streaker; 11. Burn; 13. Aboard; 14. Toledo; 15. Leak; 17. Breather; 19. Solomon; 20. Lichy; 21. Diet sheet. 22. Bewe; 1. Voltair; 2. Dodger; 3. Muff; 4. Culture shock; 5. Mud in your eye; 6. Crisscrossed; 7. Everyone else; 12. Botanist; 15. Prince; 18. Amla.

Solution No. 4,639

Across: 1. Unpretentious; 2. Downy contempt; 3. Noisy fight; 4. Betwixt; 5. Not precisely; 6. Deep valley - eat a lot; 7. The fourth mustache; 8. Extra - dominant; 9. State, origin of fine goat's wool; 10. Small manual scale; 11. Specious; 12. Leather worker; 13. Bear witness to; 14. Down: 1. Not stationary; 2. Gem that cuts; 3. Soothe (lips or conscience); 4. Model of excellence; 5. Drunkard; 6. Lower; 7. Take-home money; 8. Drive back; 9. One named for; 10. Burrowing marsupial; 11. Very keen; 12. In the flesh it is; 13. In the flesh it is; 14. Schism; 15. Defiled; 10. Streaker; 11. Burn; 13. Aboard; 14. Toledo; 15. Leak; 17. Breather; 19. Solomon; 20. Lichy; 21. Diet sheet; 22. Bewe; 1. Voltair; 2. Dodger; 3. Muff; 4. Culture shock; 5. Mud in your eye; 6. Crisscrossed; 7. Everyone else; 12. Botanist; 15. Prince; 18. Amla.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Steve Bell

Hardnose is back at the mule.

After admitting last night that she may have been guilty of telling a lie, Margaret Thatcher is rumoured to have shot either herself or a senior minister inside her Whitehall bunker.

Downing Street has neither confirmed nor denied the rumour. But Whitehall sources have admitted that Minister of Defence Michael Heseltine is definitely missing.

You're getting on your feet, I'll give it a column in the seven.

Not on the mule!

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HE J.Y.M. (Habs) The Hunt a shy boy a not-bellied Ewok wants to know.

NOT WATER BOTTLE is reciprocal. - ELY.

DR. P.J. - Squeakybunny loves you.

THE MAN FROM LARAMIE - my boots are empty, love me, I'll fill them for you. - ELY.

KEEP EATING THE Porridge. - ELY.

BE THE MAN. I don't even send the postcard. I love you and miss you.

HOUSEHOLD. - Why? You are a woman. I love you and miss you.

SHORTLY. If you continue to send me postcards, I will stop sending you mine. - ELY.

BEAR. - I love you and miss you.

A VERY NICE. I love you and miss you.

MUTTER. - I love you and miss you.

CIP. - You drive me bananas too, and you will for donkeys!

TO MY SWEETHEART. KUMISO MATSUO. Your chocolate was lovely. I love you and miss you.

YEMER! I love you like I've never loved before. Thank you for a wonderful weekend. - ELY.

THIS BEAUTIFUL WRITER would like to meet you. I love you and miss you.

DEAREST DAVID. I'll meet you in London. I love you and miss you.

OK & WHITE. I love you and miss you.

TO CHARMER. FOR MEN. Leicester. No more. I love you and miss you.

HEY LISTEN. I love you and miss you.

MR BOY - You're my baby, you're everything I love you and miss you.

AND NOT ALL young indigenous Englishmen are stupid. I love you and miss you.

AMBAADOR OR DIPLOMAT - I love you and miss you.

TRAMP. - I love you and miss you.

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MY BROWNIEED Handmade Man. - ELY.

SELLMANN. - Be glad - at last, after three years, a riposte!

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